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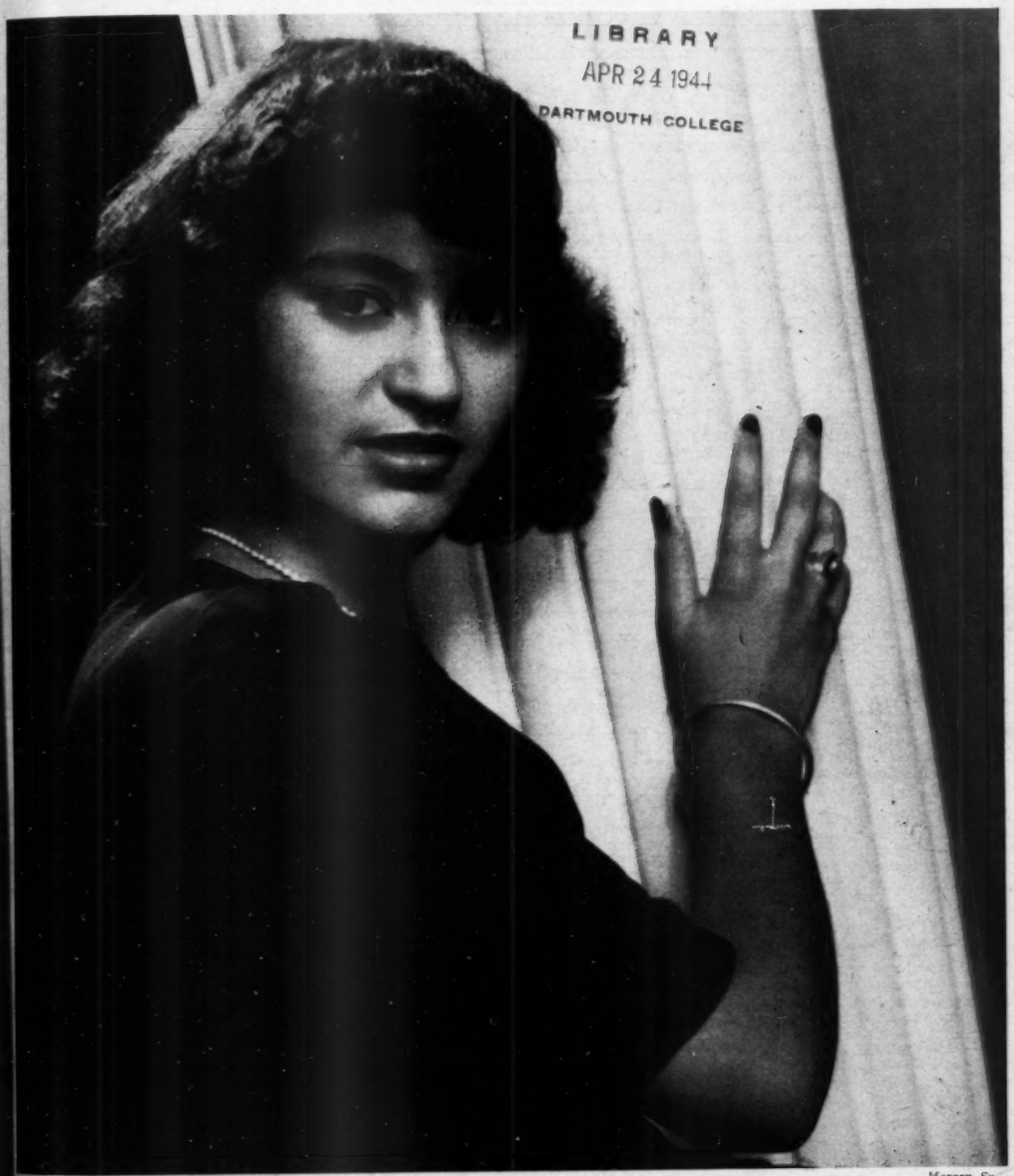

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# College and School News

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY announces the 7th annual series of the Thirkeld lectures on preaching, social service and interracial goodwill to be delivered in Thirkeld Chapel, March 7-9, by Dr. Henry Hit Crane, pastor of Central Methodist church, Detroit, Michigan.

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE announces the appointment of Mrs. Ernestine D. Browne as Assistant Registrar, a position formerly held by Miss Edna Hopkins. Mrs. Browne, a native of Salisbury, Maryland, is a graduate of Hartshorn Memorial college and the Derrick business school in Philadelphia, Pa. She has served in the Surgeon General's office in Washington, D. C. and as secretary to the president of Princess Anne (Md.) college.

Dr. D. O. W. Holmes has stressed the need for $1,245,000 worth of new buildings in his report to the Board of Trustees in anticipation of an increased postwar enrollment.

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE observed its 77th anniversary February 16-18. The celebration culminated an intensive drive for $26,000 necessitated by decline in income from student fees. Speakers on this occasion were two successful graduates, Attorney George W. Crockett of Washington, D. C. and Rev. Oscar Thomas of Selma, Alabama.

Dr. Edward A. Jones (French) has been elected to membership in the Cornell university chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Dr. Jones received the Ph.D. in French from Cornell last June. Dr. Charles D. Hubert, Director of the School of Religion and pastor of the Providence Baptist Church died in Freedman's hospital in Washington, D. C. on January 26 after several months' illness. He served as acting president of Morehouse from 1937 until 1940.

Mr. Edward B. Williams (Economics) has been appointed associate social science analyst with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, covering the states of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

Dr. Melvin B. Tolson, professor of

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English and Director of the Log Cabin theatre at WILEY COLLEGE has signed a contract with the Dodd Mead Company of New York City for bringing out his volume of poems "Rendezvous With America" this Spring. This is the first book by a Negro which this company has published in forty years.

---

The FISK UNIVERSITY library has announced its acceptance of the George Gershwin Memorial Collection of Music and Musical Literature founded by Carl Van Vechten. The collection, including the personal library of Mr. Van Vechten which consists of books on music, published music, manuscripts, letters, phonograph records and important series of photographs of white and colored musicians taken by Mr. Van Vechten, scrap books and other miscellaneous items.

---

XAVIER UNIVERSITY held the January convocation of the 17th annual commencement on January 17 when degrees were conferred on 24 under-graduates and one graduate. Most Reverend Joseph Francis Rummell STD, LLD., Archbishop of New Orleans, presided at the exercises, and the Reverend Edward F. Murphy, SSJ, Ph.D., Dean of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Xavier, conferred the degrees and was celebrant of the baccalaureate mass.

---

The 76th anniversary of the opening of SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE was observed on January 8 in the form of a banquet presided over by the Reverend Edgar H. Goold, President. Saint Augustine's was chartered as a "normal school and collegiate institution" in 1867 and began instruction on January 13, 1868. Its first four-year college class was graduated in 1931, and in 1942 it was rated Class A by the Southern Association of Colleges. It is operated under the auspices of the Episcopal church.

---

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE celebrated Negro History Week with an extremely interesting program. The guest speaker was Prince Nyabongo, native African and faculty member from Alabama State College.

---

Dr. Warren E. Henry (Chemistry) of Spelman College has been granted a leave of absence to do special research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the radiation laboratory. The work is connected with the war effort. The appointment came as a result of his previous work in this field at the University of Chicago. Dr. Henry is an alumnus of Tuskegee Institute, At-

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lanta University and the University of Chicago which awarded him the Ph.D. in 1941. He is co-author with John T. Williamson of "Procedures in Elementary Qualitative Chemical Analysis."

---

WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE held its mid-year convocation on January 30. The speaker was James Carmichael Evans, MS in EE, Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, absent on leave from the college as director of the Division of Technical Education.

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STORER COLLEGE is mourning the passing of one of its Trustees, John Fletcher of Providence, R. I.

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The first semester at BENNETT COLLEGE closed with the graduation of nine students, the entrance of twenty new students and the address by Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President of Howard University. The college recently observed its 70th anniversary with Mrs. J. D. Bragg, President of the Women's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Researches and chapter extension of the Methodist church, as guest speaker. More than $2,700 was raised by graduates, students and faculty toward the recent endowment drive. In this connection the General Education Board is giving 66⅔¢ for each dollar raised in the campaign.

The North Carolina conference of the Methodist church completed its 18-month endowment drive with a report to the college of $10,073.83.

---

Dr. James E. Shepard, President of the NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE FOR NEGROES was named by Gov. J. Melville Broughton to represent the State at the celebration of National Freedom Day at Philadelphia's Academy of Music February 1, 1944.

The former Wakefield-Zebulon School for Negroes in Wake County, N. C. will be renamed next year the Shepard School in honor of Dr. James Edward Shepard, President and founder of the college.

---

Closing of LINCOLN UNIVERSITY'S (Mo.) school of journalism on February 1 due to lack of funds was averted by the acceptance by the State of the offer of the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri to provide for the instruction of the Negro students enrolled in the Lincoln school of jurnalism by sending to the campus the faculty of the Missouri university school of journalism through the period December 31, 1944.

Lincoln University celebrated its 78th

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**YOUNG PAINTER CONGRATULATED**

*Miss Persis Jennings of Victoria, Va., a graduate of New York City's Music and Art High School, and a senior at Hampton Institute, is pictured above with the Rev. C. J. Word, pastor of the East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va., where the mural in the background, painted by Miss Jennings, was recently unveiled. On the left is Viktor Lowenfeld, head of the Art Center at Hampton Institute.—Randall Photo.*

anniversary Founder's Day on January 16.

---

W. H. A. Booker (English) of DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE was recently elected to membership in Rho Chapter of the honorary professional fraternity, Phi Delta Kappa at New York University where he is studying in the School of Education. He is one of the seven Negroes who have been so honored since 1937.

---

Dean of Instruction, R. O'Hara Lanier of HAMILTON INSTITUTE is living with his family in New York on a half-year's leave of absence after serving over a year as acting president. He is pursuing special research on a grant from the General Education Board.

A series of Home-Study courses sponsored by the Extension Division has been announced by William M. Cooper, director. They are planned to meet the needs of persons who seek college instruction but cannot attend classes, and include religion, race relations, Negro literature and Negro history. College credit will be granted in terms of semester hours.

The nursing arts laboratory for the recently established Division of Nurse Education is nearing completion. It is located on the ground floor of Curry Hall and contains equipment comparable to that found in up-to-date hospitals.

Ralph Parkhurst Bridgeman, recently elected president assumed his duties on February 1.

Thomas D. Patterson, former District Farm Agent in Virginia, bequeathed to Hampton Institute $3,000 in cash and one-fourth of the residue of his estate.

Walter R. Chivers, visiting professor from Morehouse College is listed among the one hundred eminent sociologists who contributed to the new Dictionary of Sociology recently published.

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Vol. 51, No. 3 Whole Number 399


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Miss Barbara Gonzales, a student at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N. Y.

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The Crisis *was founded in* 1910 *and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York* 3, *N. Y., by The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Lewis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15 *cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* The Crisis *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879.



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**WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH THIS COPY SEND IT TO A BOY IN CAMP**

## NEXT MONTH

Kenneth L. Bright, an intimate friend of the late "Fats" Waller, will have an article titled "That Harmful Little Armful: Fats Waller in his Formative Years." Dr. E. Franklin Frazier of Howard University promises an authoritative review of Dr. Gunnar Myrdal's *The American Dilemma.* Morton Fineman's short story, "Even with his Degree," and Cedric Dover's "Toward Colored Unity," already promised, are scheduled for the April number.

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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# Editorials

### Good News

THERE is so much of bad news on the Negro-white situation that often the good news is either overlooked or undervalued. Some items of significance emerged last month:

A WAR FILM: Best news is the completion of the official War Department film, "The Negro Soldier." This is by far the best film about Negroes and their part in America and in the American army that has ever been made. In the light of its past record, it is almost unbelievable that the War Department could have made such a film. It will thrill every Negro American and educate every white American who sees it. No hodge-podge, it is a smooth, professional job, supervised by the famed Frank Capra. Carlton Moss, talented Negro radio writer, did the script. The film is not a "short," but runs for 42 minutes. The War department has made it a "must" for all army camp theatres, but the job of getting it shown in regular houses all over the land is up to the public. The readers of The Crisis are urged to write or telephone leading theatre managers in their cities asking them to book this film, which will be available for general distribution in a few weeks. This picture will do more for interracial education than ten million pamphlets on the race problem.

MARINES, COAST GUARD: Worthy of note is the fact that few if any complaints have been voiced by Negroes in the Marines and in the Coast Guard. The Marine training is tough, the discipline hard, the taskmasters strict in upholding a great tradition. The report is that when the first Negroes in the history of the Marine corps were taken in, they were given "the works." Instead of flunking out, our boys came through with no more than the usual "gripes" of the average soldier. The further report is that the Marines are now proud of their Negro units, and that white Marines are ready to "do battle" for their colored fellows in a Marine uniform. If these reports are true, and if our boys fight with the Marines as they have fought in the Army, the ban against Negro commissioned officers may well be lifted. Reports from the Coast Guard are about the same. This is a favorite service with Negroes. We do not mean that everything is perfect in these services, but if the volume of complaints is any criterion, they are far superior to the army and the navy.

NAVY: Grudgingly retreating before pressure, the Navy department has announced it will commission 22 Negroes as officers, with lieutenant, junior grade, as the top rank. Two warships, a submarine patrol boat and a destroyer escort vessel, will be manned by Negro crews and white officers.

All this is good news, representing progress along the color line. The navy news is revolutionary for our modern navy, but it should be noted that it follows the army in maintaining the segregated pattern: Negro ground units, Negro combat aviation units, Negro warships. Indications are growing that Negroes everywhere are more and more opposed to segregation in America's army of democracy, and that while these advances are recognized, pressure will continue for the abolition of the separation of our fighting men according to color.

### Negro Republicans Speak

STRAIGHT talk to the Republican party came from our Negro GOP leaders in session in Chicago in February. "We submit," said the statement, "that unless the Republican party is courageous enough to re-dedicate itself . . . and adopt the views herein set forth, it cannot hope to gain the support of colored voters in the approaching election." Among the specific demands upon the party are:

End discrimination and segregation in the armed forces.

Open enlistment in the navy to colored women.

Protect colored service men from physical abuses by civilians.

Enact adequate right-to-work legislation to end discrimination by railroads, railroad unions, and other labor unions, and oppose the draft of labor.

Enact legislation which will safeguard the right of every individual to obtain employment without discrimination on account of race, creed, color, or national origin.

Give federal aid to public housing.

Enact a federal anti-lynching law.

Provide for a federal education bill to equalize facilities and opportunities for all.

Enforce the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to obtain universal suffrage and kill the poll tax and the white primary.

Enact and enforce federal legislation to prohibit discrimination and segregation in interstate travel.

A copy of these demands must surely have been sent to the party chiefs, so that Senator Taft knows Negro Republicans condemn his dirty work on the federal aid to education bill; Congressman Joseph W. Martin knows they do not like the hatchet work of the GOP-Dixie gang in Congress; Senator Austin and Congressman Wadsworth know Negro Republicans are not for their labor draft bill.

This statement is but one more proving that *all* Negroes in responsible position of leadership, regardless of party, are united upon certain objectives. The statement of the Negro editors, read to Mr. Roosevelt upon the occasion of their audience with him, touches upon most of the points above. So does the "Declaration of Negro Voters," adopted last November by representatives of 20 national organizations. All of them sound the protest against segregation in the armed forces, the segregation which is symbolic of the place of the race in American life, and which is so tragically incongruous in the war we are fighting. It remains to be seen whether any man or party will heed this unprecedented unity among Negroes, will recognize the justice of their requests, and act with the courage demanded by the swiftly changing times.

### The Red Cross

THE American Red Cross is asking the American people for 200 million dollars during March to carry on its work. In answer to an inquiry from the NAACP as to whether there has been any change in its blood plasma bank policy, the Red Cross has replied that nothing has been changed. That means that the humiliating practice of segregating the blood of Negro and white donors is still in effect, although all competent medical authorities have agreed that there is no difference in blood.

In addition to its blood policy, there are persistent reports that the overseas clubs of the Red Cross have a policy of segregation. The headquarters in Washington has denied this, saying the general policy is one of no segregation, but complaints continue to filter through from abroad.

The Crisis does not advise its readers to refuse to contribute to the Red Cross. It is doing a valuable work in the war and as good Americans we must aid any work that speeds victory. We do ask that contributions be considered in the light of this record, especially as to the blood bank. A note of protest might well accompany each gift.

# The War for Common Humanity

## By Herbert J. Seligmann

MEMBERS of minority groups in America and elsewhere can best understand their problem by seeing it in relation to the world situation today. What the world is going through is a moral crisis of the first magnitude. For at the heart of the program of our enemies is a denial of common humanity. Common humanity is at the basis of what we call civilization. Its components are: the brotherhood of man, freedom of speech and of religion, the universality of art and science, and the service of truth.

All this the Nazi-Fascists would destroy. To destroy it they use bestial cruelty, atrocious force and an organized campaign of lies.

Before the present war, no part of the world was spared the attack of the powers of negation. The Japanese moved against the Chinese in Manchuria. The Nazis began by robbing, torturing and murdering the less than one per cent of Jews in the German population, then seized Austria and raped Czechoslovakia. Mussolini, unhindered, blasted Ethiopia. Franco, backed by Hitler and Mussolini, destroyed the people's republic in Spain.

Only when the Nazi-Fascist-Tojo gangsterism had become strong enough to imperil the very existence of Britain and the United States—in our case only when bombs actually fell on Pearl Harbor—did we resort to force for humanity's defense.

So our pre-war record is far from clear. We cannot escape our share of responsibility for the moral chaos which made the war inevitable. In this country as in Britain we had plenty of appeasers, Nazi sympathizers and "isolationists." Their presence among us is a clear indication that the world war has two phases. One of them is the external struggle against the military might of the Axis. The other phase of the war extends to places where at present there are no military operation. Those places include Britain, the United States, the countries of Central and South America, in fact, the whole world. Wherever men listen, read or think, this war is now going on. Some even believe that the struggle which will follow the armistice may be as critical as the armed warfare for the survival of democracy in the world.

***"The first principle I should propose as a guide for any minority group member is this: Any man discriminated against or disadvantaged because of his color or creed is the natural ally of every other man so discriminated against," says this author. "All such men are an acid test of democracy. As long as the discrimination prevails, democracy does not"***

Colored Americans hardly need to be reminded of this fact. They have seen mobs at work on the streets of American cities. They know that they are still discriminated against in the armed services of the United States. They are well aware that the Railway Brotherhoods, the Machinists' Union, and many other powerful unions of the American Federation of Labor, by excluding them from membership, deny them the right to work. They have seen the southern railways and the unions of white workers on those railways defy the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice and say that Negro engineers and firemen need not hope to get jobs.

At the same time, colored Americans, who realize what all this means, have seen similar forces at work here against members of another minority group, the Jews. They have read of the beating of Jewish children on the streets of Boston and New York, the defacement of Jewish cemeteries and places of worship. Perhaps they know, too, that many forms of employment are barred to Jews, just as they are to Negroes.

### Minority Causes Similar

Faced with such similarities in the pattern of discrimination, it is idle for any one minority group to think it is alone in this world struggle. The very basis of the democratic credo is that, in Robert Burns' phrase,

"A man's a man for a' that."

Not just a white man. Not merely a Christian. Not a blond or British or Baptist or Hindu or Mussulman—just a man. That is what this world war is about. The test as to whether this world war has been won will be the

British Combine

*All races, colors, and creeds are involved in the war. In this picture Isaac Babolola Thomas (Nigeria) one of the African editors visiting Britain signs the visitors book at a coastal battery. Other editors are seen in the background.*

status of minority groups throughout the world when the fighting has ended.

This is not to assume that all minority problems will be quickly resolved in a glorious dawn of absolute equality and decency. Group and class tensions are of such long historic standing—in the case of the Jews at least a thousand years, in the case of the Negroes three hundred years or more—their roots go so deep and the ramifications are so widespread, that it will be long before we can hope to see a better world.

That does not prevent us from seeing these problems in their perspective. That perspective indicates that whatever minority we happen to belong to, we have many and powerful allies, if we will join with those allies. For basically, the cause of minorities is the cause of the common man everywhere.

So that the first principle I should propose as a guide for any minority group member is this: Any man discriminated against or disadvantaged because of his color or his creed is the natural ally of every other man so discriminated against. All such men are an acid test of democracy. As long as the discrimination prevails, democracy does not.

Now what are the minorities in the United States? Some thirteen million Negroes, about one in ten of the nation's entire population, and some five million Jews constituting less than one in twenty-five of the nation. The Negroes have the advantage of numbers. In many of the northern states, where they vote unhindered by poll tax, fraud or terror, they constitute a powerful voting block. They have an influential press, they have organizations to voice their grievances. What they lack is the pervasive cultural integration which comes of absorption in the white man's economic system. The Jews, lacking the Negroe's numerical power, have some of those other advantages. In Europe the Jews were influential not only in business but in scholarship, the arts and the learned professions. From the earliest times they have so established themselves in the life of America. This is not to slur the colored Americans who have greatly distinguished themselves. The names of Banneker, of Just, of Carver, of Du Bois, of Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson and Marian Anderson, to name only a few, are household words. Nevertheless, the color bar has been more rigid and pervasive than the religious. Each group, therefore, has resources to contribute to the struggle. The Negro has political power. The Jew has cultural influence. Many of the leaders of both groups have long known and acted upon this knowledge. Negro leaders have stood for basic civil rights, have warned colored Americans of the dangers of religious bigotry, and have rallied the forces of colored America against the Nazi-Fascist influence here. Many Jews have fought for the cause of the Negro, not merely for the Negro's sake, but because his case symbolizes that of humanity.

British Combine

*Girls from the West Indies contribute their share. Here a number of ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) sing songs around the piano during recreation time.*

### Problem of Common Man

It is necessary for both groups to realize that only as the cause of the common man advances, will their cause go forward. Every vital defense of civil liberties, every vindication of opportunity for Americans irrespective of color or creed, is a demonstration to the world that American democracy, whatever its limitations, can and does in some degree work. Every backward step is a defeat for the members of both groups, whether or not they realize it, and some unfortunately do not. Every race riot on the streets of American cities is a step toward pogroms. Every beating of a Jewish child is an invitation to the lyncher. Both of them testify to the menace of barbarism and to efforts to divide Americans which the Nazi-Fascist-Tojo forces are doing their utmost to further.

Now what is it we have to look forward to in the immediate future? A number of white southerners have been warning us that the Negro may expect to go just so far and no further. David Cohn, writing as a Mississippian, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, says that the problem of the relations of white and colored Americans in the South, reduces itself to one of sex. For that is what is meant by "social equality". The whites, he insists, will tolerate no intermarriage nor any contacts which might lead to it. Rather than endure that, they will fight. Such, he assures us, is the present level of southern thought on this subject and the temper of public opinion. What this means is an absolute line of segregation, uncrossable and backed by the threat of force. Mr. Cohn adds that the old personal relations between condescending white men and acquiescent Negroes are fading out, and that the two groups are pulling away from one another, into mutually hostile parties with opposed economic interests.

It is not necessary to accept the challenge on the terms Mr. Cohn outlines. It may fairly be said of those colored men and women who have "passed" over into the white population, losing their identity as Negroes, that there would have been no motive for their doing so had there not been such heavy social penalties for the crime of being a Negro. Nor would it have been necessary for some thirty states of the Union to pass laws making it a crime for colored people—including Asiatics—and whites to marry, if there were no disposition for them to mate. The only rational ground for a prohibition against inter-marriage would be the "racial inferiority" which the Nazi-Fascists proclaim. But such inferiority no reputable scientist has ever demonstrated or accepted. It is late in the day to have to be repeating that the

denial of what is called social equality has served as a propaganda smoke screen to keep the Negro out of jobs, to exploit him unmercifully, and to keep him so far as possible poor and subservient.

### Negroes Want Full Citizenship

Against the sort of doctrine Mr. Cohn offers, with its plain threat of violence, the answer is not force. Rather is the reply to be made by rallying those people who see the implications of second-class citizenship in terms of what the Nazis have tried to impose on the world. Negroes want jobs as engineers and firemen, not because those jobs would lead to their marrying white women, but because they want the opportunity to function as American citizens and workers irrespective of color. They want jobs in aircraft factories, in public utility services, they want opportunities in law and medical schools and interneships in good hospitals because they have their contribution to make to the "general welfare" which the Constitution was intended to promote. No one can be compelled to receive any unwelcome person in his home. Where colored and white people work together, as in many industries they do, there is no thought of compulsory personal association. The fact that some colored and white people do form personal friendships and do meet socially, concerns them and no one else. On this subject, I can only repeat what I said twenty-three years ago in *The Negro Faces America,* that "the question of intermarriage could more safely be left to the decision of the individuals concerned than to politicians with a vested political interest in race hatred. The difficulties in the way of the Negro's progress are such as to deter most white persons from subjecting themselves to them by marriage. On racial grounds no prohibition of intermarriage has as yet been justified."

We do have the object lesson of Hawaii, on the one hand, where many ethnic groups have successfully mingled and of Brazil, where the darkest color offers no hindrance to the highest political office or social acceptance. As Waldo Frank pointed out in his *South American Journey,* both in Brazil and in the United States, white men have fathered children of colored women. But in our country we "fought the passion and ostracized its children. Hence fear, which is the fruit of the denial of human feelings."

In the January 1944 number of the *Atlantic Monthly,* which publishes Mr. Cohn's essay, is one by a descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, Edgar L. Jones, who writes as a soldier returned from the fighting overseas. Mr. Jones knows what war is, having experienced it in North Africa. Also, he knows something of what men are giving their lives and health to maintain. On the subject which Mr. Cohn discusses, the returned soldier says:

"Outspoken racial prejudices hit the returning American these days like a blow in the face."

That Mr. Jones knows what he is talking about is confirmed in a dispatch of January 15, to the New York *Times,* from Italy. This dispatch quotes President Roosevelt's special representative on religious matters among Jewish service men and women, Rabbi Barnett E. Brickner, of Cleveland. Said Rabbi Brickner:

"Chaplains have told me that narrow religion is out, and from what I have experienced, I heartily concur with their view. There is more brotherhood among the men of all denominations and creeds and races than they ever knew back home."

Chaplains had told him, Rabbi Brickner added, that "in most of the units, especially those in front echelons, the lines that had heretofore separated Christians from Jews, Catholics from Protestants and whites from Negroes had been greatly dissolved in the common drive for victory."

It is Americans like Mr. Jones whom American citizens of color or Jewish descent can count on. Such Americans have fought against the beast of prejudice and its hideous works overseas. They did not fight against it there, in order to submit to it in America. They can be counted on to take their part in the army of Americans who will continue the civil struggle to realize the promise of American life at home.

### Citizens Must Work Together

That promise cannot be realized merely by legal enactment. It must come by means which will often seem painfully slow: by joint action in local communities, by education in the schools, by committees of church, educational, labor, and civic groups. Every broad base of contact that can be established enabling citizens to work together for common objectives, represents progress toward better human relations. Such progress has been made by councils of Jews and Christians to combat the ugly rumor-spreading and hate-mongering of anti-Jewish hoodlums. Similar action has been taken by joint groups of white and colored citizens, in educational and civic groups, to clear up misunderstandings that lead to friction. There is no substitute in this field, for persistence, patience and courage.

The minority groups themselves have a job of self-discipline and self-policing to do. They, like all other groups in the population, have members of whose behavior they are ashamed. That is true of Jews, as it is of Negroes. Boisterous and inconsiderate behavior in public places, self-assertion at the expense of consideration for the rights and convenience of others, even outright crimes, are no worse when Jews and Negroes commit them than when other people do. But the minority is conspicuous and is often held responsible as a group for what its individual members do. We know that that is unjust and unreasonable, but the fact remains. Therefore no standard of behavior can be too high for members of minority groups to seek to realize. Demands made on paper and in public meetings, or over the radio, are often good propaganda, they convey essential ideas in a manner more or less persuasive. But propaganda cannot entirely replace courtesy and the effect of quiet working together in personal contact.

The main idea must always be kept in mind. There can be no second-class citizenship in a democracy. We cannot tolerate diluted racism as the basis for social standards or political action in the United States. There can be no compromise with those who would hold the Negro or any other group in a status of exploited subserviency. That does not mean that a field hand should be given administrative work for which he is not fitted. It does mean that able and trained people should be given opportunity to function irerspective of creed or color. It means that any boy or girl, white or black, Jew or Christian, shall be given a chance for education and for as full self-development as his or her capacities justify.

Let us not underestimate the power of inertia, prejudice and dead tradition. There is danger in supposing that we can suddenly change the deep-rooted attitudes of people, however medieval and inhuman those attitudes may be. The assertion of a right, the proclamation of a human protest, does not necessarily mean that the right will be at once realized, that the condition complained of will be immediately remedied.

### Many Lines of Attack

There is no one way of attacking the problems of minority groups. There are many ways, all of them useful. We can back by political action those who advance the American principle, by

(*Continued on page 93*)

## FOUR STILLS FROM ARMY MOVIE "THE NEGRO SOLDIER"

U. S. Army Photos

*These stills are from the newly released U. S. Army Signal Corps movie, "The Negro Soldier," made under the supervision of Col. Frank Capra and written and narrated by Carlton Moss. This picture marks a milestone in the cinematic presentation of the Negro because it breaks away from the usual Hollywood stereotypes It is the story of the participation of Negro Americans in the various wars engaged in by the United States, and it traces the role of the Negro soldier from Crispus Attucks, hero of the Boston massacre, to Robert Brooks, first American soldier of the armored force to die in this war. The main part of the picture, however, deals with the Negro soldier in the present war. Upper left shows light tanks of the 93rd Infantry Division; upper right, members of the 93rd Infantry Division in field maneuvers. Lower left shows coast artillery AA unit; lower right, another scene from field maneuvers of the 93rd. Ask your theatre to book this film.*

# Negro Status in the Boilermakers Union

## By Thurgood Marshall

***On the West Coast and in Providence, R. I., Negro shipyard workers are fighting the efforts of the Boilermakers union to discriminate against them. In this article NAACP special counsel reports on the fight***

THE status of the Negro in the Boilermakers union recently reached the front page as a result of Judge Churchill's decision that "the purpose and effect of the so-called "auxiliary" was to segregate Negroes and persons of no other race and color" and that therefore "auxiliaries" "are illegal and void." This decision is epoch making, for it is the first one of its type involving the legal status of "auxiliary unions."

At least fifteen unions exclude Negroes from membership by provisions in either their constitution or ritual. Nine international unions bar Negroes from admission to their regular unions and locals, admitting them only to "jim crow" auxiliary bodies. Herbert R. Northrup, in the *Journal of Political Economy*, June, 1943, has summarized the discriminatory tactics used by labor unions against Negroes as follows: (1) Exclusion of Negroes by provision in the ritual; (2) exclusion by provision in the constiution; (3) exclusion by tacit consent; and (4) exclusion by forcing the Negro to join a segregated auxiliary.*

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America, AFL, refuses to admit qualified Negroes to membership in its regular locals. Although union officials claim they exclude Negroes pursuant to provision in the ritual, a careful examination of their ritual reveals no mention whatever of race or color. This makes it clear, therefore, that Negroes are relegated to "jim crow" auxiliary unions as a result of the whims of officers of the International.

Further investigation of the practices of the Boilermakers reveals the adoption of a new constitution at their 1937 convention. According to this constitution, membership in the Boilermakers is open to male citizens "of some civilized country between the ages of 16 and 70 years, working at some branch of the trade at the time of making application." No reference is made to race or color anywhere in the constitution, nor even in the by-laws adopted by the International. They have, however, issued another book labeled "By-Laws Governing Auxiliary Lodges," which purports to have been adopted by the Executive Council of the Boilermakers. These rules profess to restrict membership to "colored male citizens."

Paramount Studios

*Justice Alexander L. Churchill struck a blow for equality in trade unionism when he granted Negro shipyard workers in Providence, R. I., a temporary injunction restraining Local 308 of the Boilermakers union from discriminating against them.*

A comparison of these two sets of rules shows clearly that the only equality between the auxiliary lodges and the regular lodges is in the amount of dues paid. Though members of an auxiliary, Negroes have to pay the same dues as the white members of the regular lodges. After this, all semblance of equality vanishes.

### Other Inequalities

In addition to segregation, there are other glaring inequalities. Insurance policies provide for Negro members about half the benefits they do for white members, and Negro auxiliary lodges are all under the direct control of the white local lodges, designated as "supervising lodges." "Auxiliaries" are also denied the right to have a business agent of their own; the right to have a grievance committee; and the right to promotion on the job without the permission of the supervising local. Membership in auxiliaries is limited to persons under 60 years of age, while white persons are eligible for membership in a local up to 70 years of age. Clinching proof of the ephemeral status of an auxiliary is found in the fact that the International president has the uncontrolled discretion to suspend any auxiliary or any officer or member. He may do this upon a mere whim, since he is answerable to no one. But a local, which consists exclusively of members of the white race, may be suspended by the International president only when he acts in conjunction with the Executive Council, and then only after such a local shall have been proved guilty of violation of the constitution and by-laws. Handicaps are even placed on the right of employment of "auxiliary members" in other cities.

In view of the fact that more and more Negroes are being employed in the shipbuilding industry these discriminatory practices of the Boilermakers union, since they hold a closed-shop contract in most of the shipyards, have become the target of attack by the NAACP and other liberal organizations.

Discriminations against Negroes in the Boilermakers union is the same old story of discrimination tied up with the evil of segregation. And past experience teaches us that with a reduction in the number of contracts for ships, and the consequent reduction in employment, the members of the Negro auxiliary are not going to have the protection of the union, and the old story of the Negro's being "the first to go" will again face us.

During the earlier months of the war emergency, Negroes were excluded from most skilled jobs in shipyards. However, need for workers became so acute that it became necessary to em-

ploy Negroes and the Boilermakers, being unable to secure a sufficient number of white workers, had to admit Negroes to these jobs. While the Boilermakers permitted the Negroes to work, they did not intend for them to have full membership in the union. So in order to protect their closed-shop agreements, they began to inaugurate the policy of setting up jim crow auxiliary unions. On the West Coast many Negroes, while paying their dues, including initiation fees, to the regular locals of the Boilermakers, at the same time refused to be relegated to the status of members in auxiliary locals. This situation prevailed for some time.

**Complaint Filed**

Finally the Portland, Oregon, branch of the NAACP, in conjunction with the National Office, filed formal complaints with the FEPC concerning this type of discrimination, and full hearings by the FEPC were held in Portland and Los Angeles in November of 1943. The Boilermakers, however, on November 28, 1943, ordered the Marinship Corporation in San Francisco, Calif., to discharge all non-members, which included all of the Negroes who had refused to join the auxiliary. The Negro workers, then, led by Joseph James, a shipyard worker, secured a temporary injunction in the local federal court preventing the discharge of these men. But the case was dismissed on the ground that no diversity of citizenship was involved nor sufficient federal question to warrant such action in the federal courts. Through their lawyers the Negro workers applied for and secured a second temporary injunction, this time from the local courts. This case is now pending.

While the federal case was pending, FEPC, on December 9, 1943, issued its findings and directives in regard to the Boilermakers union, ordering the union to "take such necessary steps and put in course of execution such required procedures as will effect elimination of the discriminatory policies and practices found to be in conflict with and in violation of Executive Order 9346."

Despite this ruling by FEPC, the Boilermakers have refused to discontinue their discriminatory policies.

**Providence Case**

In the shipyards in Providence, R. I., the Boilermakers union was anxious to win the election among the workers in order to be designated as the bargaining agent. Preceding the election the Boilemakers had admitted all persons, regardless of race or color, and were more than anxious to sign up Negroes. These Negroes were admitted into the regular union, attended meetings, made motions, voted and were treated as any other members. After the election had been won by the Boilermakers and the closed-shop agreement signed, officers of the International of the Boilermakers attempted to set up an auxiliary, though a majority of the local officers of the union, as well as the Negro members of the local and a majority of white members, were opposed to this move. As a matter of fact a large majority of both Negro and white members had adopted in September, 1943, a resolution to the effect that there should be no distinction as to race in the membership of the local. Yet the International officers continued their efforts to remove Negro members from the local, and it was soon discovered members, after paying their dues as members of the local, were receiving "auxiliary cards." These "auxiliary cards" were ignored by the Negroes and other members of the local, and Negroes continued to attend meetings along with others and were ostensibly considered regular members.

When the December election of officers was held, the International made efforts to have men elected who would discriminate against Negroes. In order to insure the election of such men, International representatives challenged all ballots cast by Negro members and refused to permit them to be counted. A case challenging this type of discrimination is now pending in the local Providence court.

On January 13 Judge Churchill handed down his epoch-making decision. He said, among other things, "That the purpose and effect of the so-called 'auxiliary' was to segregate Negroes and persons of no other race and color, in a position less favorable in substantial matters than the position enjoyed by other members [white] of Local 308. . . . It is clear beyond doubt that such acts at this election of December 14, 1943, in respect to ballots offered Negro voters, under instructions of the officials of the International, constitute a discrimination based on race and color, and the question is, is this discrimination illegal? . . . I rule that the conduct at the election of December 14, 1943, and that the by-laws and constitution of the so-called 'auxiliary,' in so far as they discriminate between members of the colored race, Negroes, and persons of all other races, as compared with the by-laws and constitution of the Brotherhood, are illegal and void." In concluding his decision, Judge Churchill said: "I rule that colored members of the so-called auxiliary are members of Local 308, and that their dues ought to be kept in Rhode Island."

Negro shipyard workers on the West Coast and in Providence, R. I., have refused to be discriminated against by the Boilermakers and have shown their willingness to fight this un-American practice through legal means. Negro members of the Boilermakers union are anxious to contribute their part toward the war effort by building ships, but at the same time they insist on being accorded their full rights as American citizens while building ships to enable the United Nations to win the war for freedom abroad.

*Apparently the injunction issued by Justice Churchill restraining Local 308 from discriminating against Negroes had little if any influence upon the racial attitudes of the delegates to the 17th annual convention of the Boilermakers union meeting in Kansas City, Mo. The convention voted unanimously to keep its jim-crow locals.*

*This action was taken despite appeals from President Roosevelt and an anti-discriminatory directive from FEPC.*

*However, one conciliatory gesture the union did make. In the future it will permit Negro auxiliary lodges to elect delegates directly to national conventions and to affiliate directly with local metal trades councils and district lodges. The convention also directed the incoming executive council to secure insurance for Negro members on the same basis as for whites.*

*The convention did not want Negroes in its locals, but it eagerly voted the full-fledged membership in the organization of women shipyard workers.*

*1. Unions which exclude Negroes through provisions in their ritual: Machinists, International Association of (A. F. of L.)

2. Unions which exclude Negroes through provisions in their constitutions: A. A. F. of L. affiliates: Airplane Pilots Association, Commercial Telegraphers Union, National Organization Masters, Mates and Pilots; Order of Railroad Telegraphers; American Wire Weavers' Protective Association; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen; Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; Order of Railway Conductors; American Train Dispatchers' Association.

3. Unions which habitually exclude Negroes by tacit consent: These are all A. F. of L. affiliates: Asbestos Workers, Heat and Frost Insulators, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, American Flint Glass Workers' Union, International Association of Granite Cutters, United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters.

4. Unions which afford Negroes only segregated auxiliary status: These are all A. F. of L. affiliates: Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers, Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Welders and Helpers, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes, Federation of Rural Letter carriers, American Federation of Railroad Workers.

# The Springfield Plan

## By Noma Jensen

***Dr. John Granrud, superintendent of the Springfield, Mass., schools, launched his program of education in tolerance in 1940. This article tells how the plan works***

THERE have been so many hit-and-miss, often futile, attempts on the part of our public schools and other educational agencies to instill democratic ideals in our people that I at first looked with skepticism upon the "Springfield Experiment." Probably it was the way the plan had been interpreted to me that made me doubt its workability. I had heard that the teachers were so zealous in carrying out the "experiment" that the three R's were being sorely neglected. Others had told me that though the plan might work in Springfield, where there is really no minority group problem, that it was not applicable to our large cosmopolitan cities with their polyglot populations.

But a week of observation in the Springfield public schools, talks with principals and teachers, and conversations with students and leading citizens, convinced me that it was fallacious to call this program the "Springfield Experiment." For here was not an "experiment" but a vital, working plan that was revolutionizing a New England city. And it has worked ever since its introduction in 1939.

Dr. John Granrud, superintendent of schools in Springfield, issued this statement after two years of experimentation with the plan:

"It is my conviction that our public schools can do far more than they have in the past to develop democratic attitudes and to eradicate the prejudices and biases which undermine the very cornerstone of our national life. There is no place in America for racial or religious intolerance or for discriminatory practices, whether they be social, economic or political. The years ahead may be trying ones indeed. They will require of all citizens resolute courage, clear thinking, boundless faith, and profound devotion to the democratic way of life."

### Fell On Fertile Soil

That these words fell on fertile soil is evidenced by what one sees and hears as he goes about the Springfield schools.

In one of these schools I sat in an arithmetic class—the children were all white but the teacher was colored. Yet it would be difficult to find a more wholesome teacher-pupil relationship than was found in that classroom. A parent of one of the pupils had occasion to visit the school and she was incredulous when she discovered that her child had a Negro for a teacher. When she asked him why he hadn't told her, he simply replied that it had never occurred to him.

In a fifth-grade history class I heard a discussion on the Civil War. One child said that he had read that in the north Negro and white people fought side by side, but that in the south they fought against each other, and this troubled him. Another pupil said he had seen a moving picture, "Cavalcade of America," and that in the picture colored people were not allowed to walk the streets with white people. "I think it is wrong," he explained, when the teacher questioned him as to why he thought that way. "They are human beings," he added, "and should enjoy the same rights that we do."

In one of the junior high schools they were discussing discrimination against Negroes in employment. A statement was made that many employers insisted they had no objections to hiring colored people, but that white people would not work with them. After this discussion all the students condemned discrimination in employment and avowed that they would be willing to work beside Negroes, just as they were now studying and playing with them in school.

### Essentials Springfield Plan

What is the Springfield plan? It is a program of education in tolerance and practical democracy. The four basic principles of the program are that (1) education in tolerance is not a job for the schools alone, but of churches and clubs as well; (2) that there must be a sympathetic study of the backgrounds of minority groups; (3) a frank discussion of existing prejudices; and (4) a diffusion of the program throughout the entire school system. "What is unique about the Springfield plan is its inclusiveness. It permeates every division of the school, from the nursery grades through the senior high schools, and the administration itself, to the community."

Having worked with minority groups for several years, I have been impressed with the difficulties facing first generation Americans. Many parents have come to me in despair to report that their children were ashamed of them. Children would refuse to speak their parents' foreign tongue; they would avoid everything that smacked of their parents' foreign background. This experience, I think, gave me a keener appreciation of what I heard and saw in the Springfield schools in their work with nationality groups.

One of the units studied in the ninth grade, for example, is called "The Contributions of Nationalities to Springfield." The aim of the unit is to give a well-rounded history of each nationality and its contribution to Springfield. Every student working on this unit makes out a chart of his own family tree, studies the various nationality groups in Springfield, and interviews people in the community and reports his findings. In this study all nationality and racial groups are put on the same plane. The contribution of the Irishman is studied along with that of the Jew, the Negro, and the German. In several junior high schols the students have compiled some very beautifully bound and illustrated books on the various nationality groups in Springfield.

These same boys and girls got up in their classrooms and told of the heartaches and the hardships which their parents, grandparents and relatives had suffered as immigrants. They told these experiences with such a sense of pride and understanding that there was no doubt in my mind of their genuineness, for their attitudes and actions did not belie their words.

On the blackboard of a ninth-grade classroom I noticed the following statements:

"There is no Aryan Race"

"There is no Semitic Race"

*(Continued on page 91)*

## NEGRO SOLDIERS LEARN ABOUT CHEMICAL WARFARE IN . . .

NEGRO TROOPS perform many services beside combat duty. One of these many services is to see to it that gas masks are kept in repair and in condition for immediate use in case of a gas attack.

These pictures (pages 81, 82 & 83) show members of the 705th Chemical Maintenance Company at the Air Forces Tactical Center, Orlando, Florida, engaged in the various activities connected with the maintenance of gas masks.

A mask is removed from its canvas carrying case and given a first inspection on a production line basis, each man examining a specific part. With defects indicated by inspectors, men working on the repair line handle maintenance.

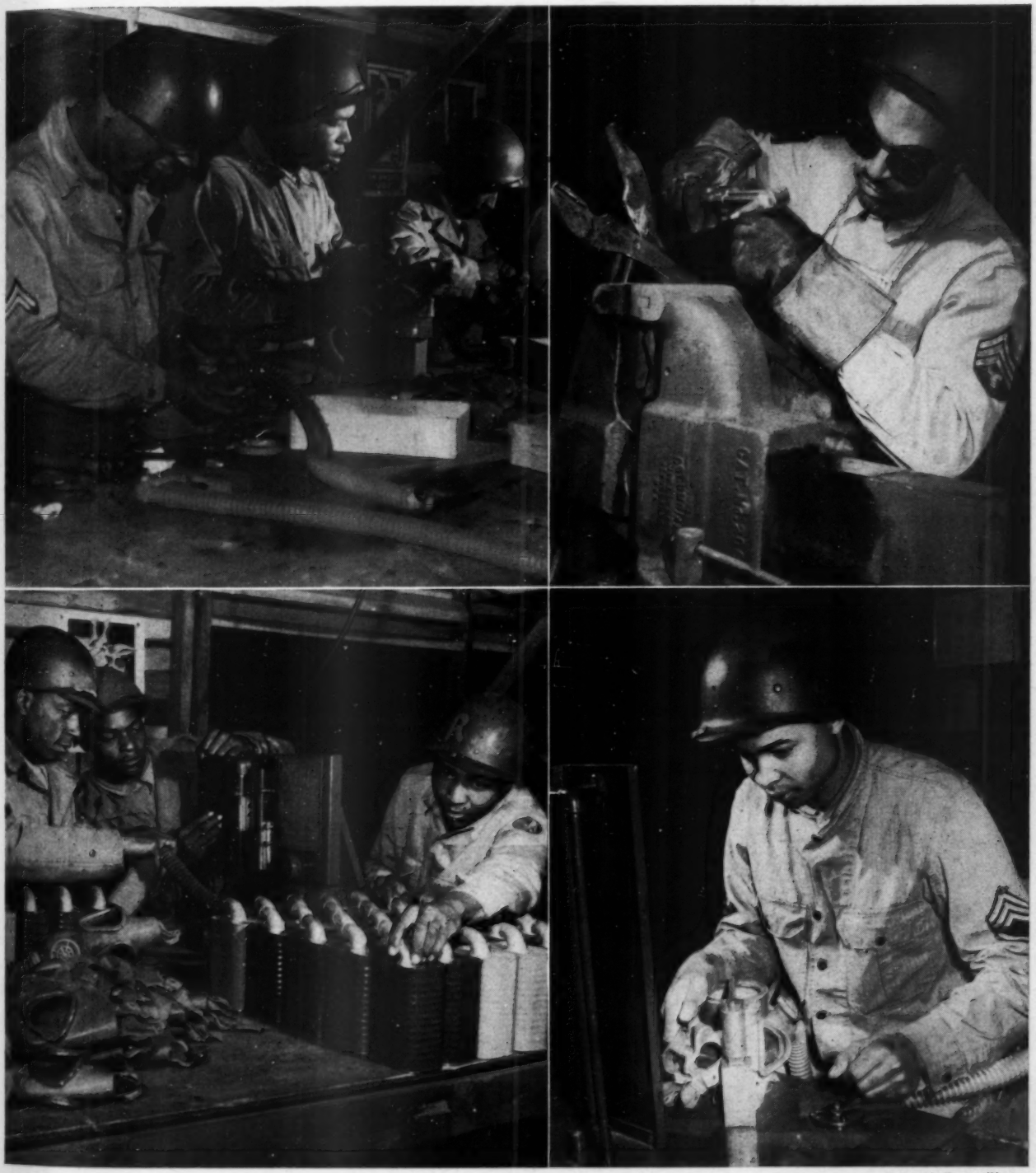
Main tests are made for leaky hoses, deterioration of rubber in the facepiece, and exhausted or clogged cannisters. Cannisters are tested on the cannister resistance indicator, eyepieces are re-touched with rust-resisting paint, canvas carriers are patched and weak spots reinforced. Where possible, parts are repaired, but if there is any chance the part might not be perfect, a new part is put on the mask.

After the masks have been repaired, they are carefully washed, dipped in a 2% solution of formaldehyde, and then hung up to air and dry. Repaired and disinfected, a mask is given a final inspection, put back into the canvas carrier, and returned for re-issue.

*Army Air Forces Photos*

*Upper right is a mobile machine shop under a flat top, to provide camouflage. Men of the chemical maintenance company have tools and parts to repair gas masks and other chemical equipment right in the field. Lower left shows soldiers giving a final inspection to a mask after it has been repaired and disinfected; after this final inspection it's put back into the canvas carrier and returned for re-issue. Lower right, here main tests are being made for leaky hoses, deterioration of rubber in the facepiece and exhausted or clogged cannisters. This first inspection is made on a production line basis.*

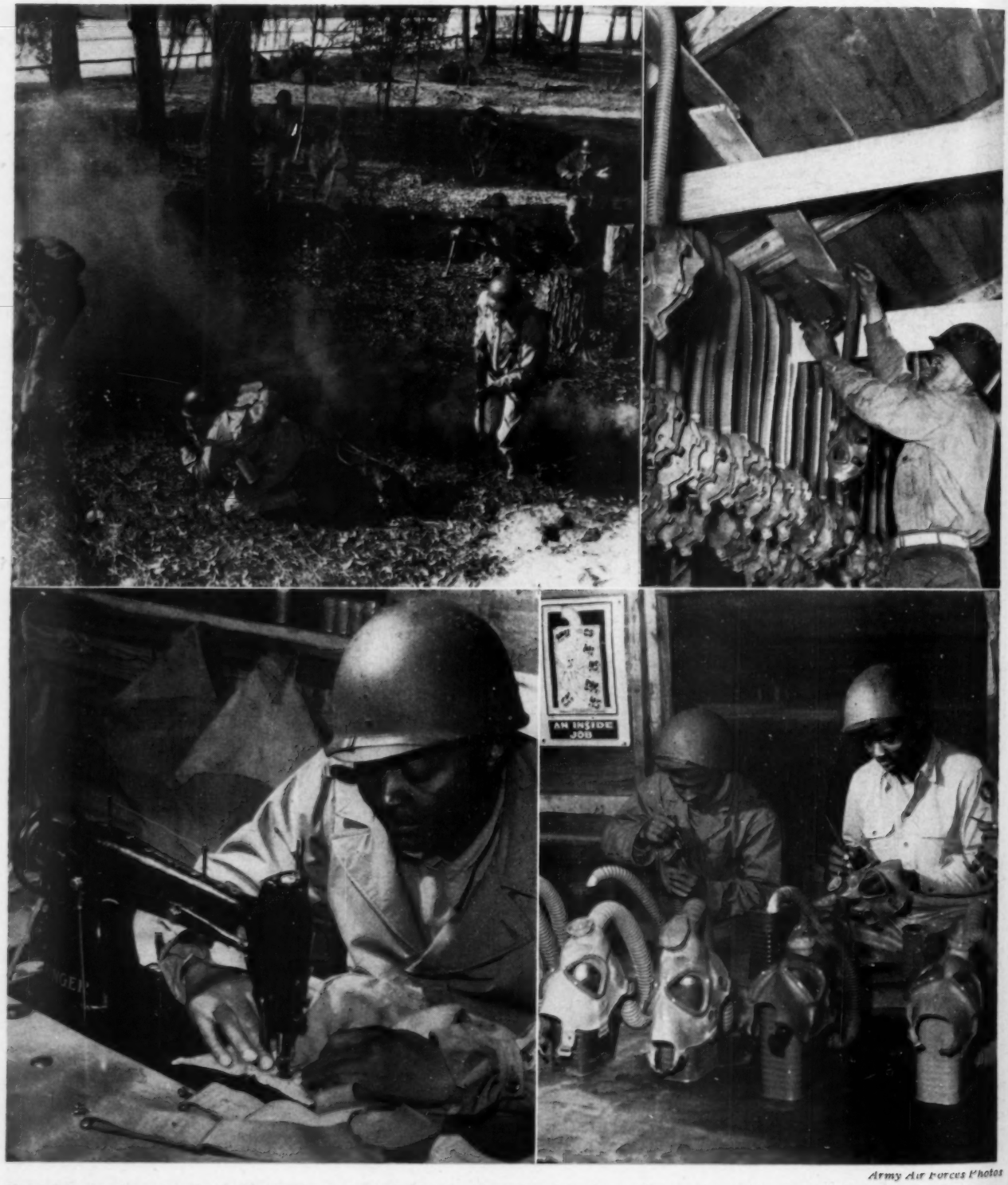
## THE 705TH CHEMICAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY, ORLANDO, FLORIDA



*Army Air Forces Photos*

*Upper left, with defects indicated by inspectors, men working on the repair line handle maintenance. Where possible, parts are repaired, but if there is any chance the part might not be perfect, a new part is put on the mask. Upper right, Sgt. Johnie Adams, Detroit, foreman of the welding department, is shown working with a large vise and heavy tools used in maintenance of decontamination trucks, etc. Lower left shows cannisters being filled with chemicals to neutralize and filter gases. Indicator draws air through chemical container by vacuum and records liters of air passing through per second. Lower right, S/Sgt. Willie A. Logan, Hattiesburg, Miss., testing gas masks for leakage on an eyepiece leakage indicator. Mask eyepieces are clamped in the indicator and a vacuum is created beneath it.*

## MORE CHEMICAL WARFARE PHOTOS




Army Air Forces Photos

*Upper left, these men of a chemical maintenance company have dropped their tools, dug fox-holes, and grabbed sub-machines, during a simulated raid, to defend their area. Upper right, all masks repaired by the chemical maintenance company are carefully washed, then dipped into a 2% solution of formaldehyde. Here they are hung in long rows to dry. Lower left shows Pvt. Charles Davis, Newark, N. J., in battle togs, running a sewing machine. He is patching the canvas carrier. Lower right shows eyepieces being re-touched with rust-resisting paint at an intermediate stage of the repair production line.*

## OUR FLIERS FIGHT NAZIS IN ITALY

British Combine

*Recognition of the fighting qualities of Negro pilots came with their successes in the fierce battles of the Anzio beachhead; below Rome. No longer on trial they have now assumed a position of leadership in combat and pursuit. Above members of the 99th Fighter Squadron discuss the days exploits at a U. S. base in the Mediterranean theatre. Veterans of the North African and Sicilian campaigns, they are credited with downing a total of 17 German planes. Below some of the pilots of the 99th, who are rapidly making themselves feared by enemy pilots, pose for a picture at the Anzio beachhead. In the foreground, head bared, is First Lt. Andrew Lane.*

# A Forgotten Othello: Ira Aldridge

## By Henrietta Buckmaster

THERE is no need here to define or to praise or to enlarge upon the contribution which Paul Robeson's Othello makes to art and understanding. It is here. It is a fact. It is extending its magic far beyond the limits of the theatre. But a hundred years ago another great Negro American cast a similar magic, and how many remember his name?

It might be interesting and profitable to speculate on why Ira Aldridge has failed to receive his full recognition in cultural history. Was it because he was a Negro? Was it because the majority of Negro Americans of his time were enslaved, and the terrible urgency of emancipation was shaking the entire world? (For the struggle against slavery in the middle of the last century, and the struggle against fascism today were equally world engrossing and world wracking.) Was it, perhaps, because his reputation was deservedly impermanent?

Whether Aldridge was a mulatto or a full blooded African is uncertain, though the probability is that his father was a Senegal chieftain, brought by missionaries to the United States for an education. In any case, his father was a man who laid great stress on education, and determinedly plucked the young Ira away from his fervent amateur play-acting in New York City and sent him to Scotland about 1820 to become a university man. Why did his father do this? Because the Senegal chieftain had found that a slavery dominated United States had nothing to offer a young Negro of sensitiveness and intelligence? Ira Aldridge would seem to indicate that this was the reasoning of both himself and his father.

But the amateur play-acting could not be drained from his blood by any amount of application to studies. He made records for scholarship, he won prizes and a medal for Latin composition, but he still thought of the stage. After a year and a half in Glasgow, he came down to London, apparently unable to withstand the blandishments of the theatre.

Nothing was easy in the London of the 1820's. For a young man with a dark skin, things were triply hard. Through dogged perseverance he was allowed to play Othello in an East End theatre under conditions which only a fervent devotee could master. There is evidence that he was accepted on the basis of solid achievement. However, he was on his way.

***Paul Robeson's immense success as Othello reminds us of the career of the first Negro Othello, Ira Aldridge. Aldridge made his debut at 21, playing Othello at the Royalty Theatre in London. This was the beginning of a career that was one of the most brilliant in the European theatre***

*Ira Frederick Aldridge (c. 1805-1867)*

### Fascinated London

Other theatres grew interested in him, and his repertory expanded. Londoners were fascinated by the handsome, black, powerful, thrilling-voiced young man who played anything from Shakespeare to penny-thrillers with equal gusto. A young lady of London, who had sat in a box at one of his performances, found a highly personal interest in him and married him, and managers found an increasing commercial interest.

But Aldridge was not yet sure of the basis of his success. The West End Theatres of London had not yet accepted him, and in the snobbery of that day only a West End theatre spelled success. In addition, no theatre in Dublin would engage a Negro actor. He settled down for a period of gruelling work, touring England from one end to the other, determined to present to the critics and theatre powers an actor who had not only fire and emotional integrity but excellent technique as well.

This was a period of all-round training, as his playbills indicate. He appeared as anything from "Three-fingered Jack," robber and son of a voodoo woman, to Oroonoko, the Indian, interlarding these performances with intermission singing of "Possum up a Gum-Tree." But he accomplished what he was after. West End theatres accepted him.

He felt sure enough of himself to advance across the Irish channel and, artist and man, face the Dublin managers. He persuaded a Dublin manager to accept him for a brief engagement. He opened in *Othello*, and he was a sensation. Edmund Kean, the great English actor, saw his Othello, and paid the ultimate compliment of asking to play his Iago. Thus began an artistic and personal friendship of warmth and intimacy.

For twenty years Aldridge was an established figure in the English theatre. His repertory grew to include the great classics of England—Hamlet, Lear, Macbeth, as well as plays which contained more traditional roles for colored actors. He considered no role beyond his power, and he apparently brought to them a realism and subtlety with which the highly styled acting of that day had little familiarity. An American, and a Negro, showed the classic-conscious Shakespeare-proud English how great emotions could be projected simply and with profound feeling.

### Acclaimed in Europe

But in 1852 his greatest success began. He went abroad. Quarrels with English managers, who objected to him embracing white actresses, lingering doubts of his complete acceptance as an interracial actor, were all forgotten. In Europe he was accepted with the acclaim which met only the great artist. Europe was Triumph. From France to Poland, the cheers, the plaudits, the joy in great art carried him like a

whirlwind. He remained away from England for three years. He was embraced by the great men of Europe, like Alexander Dumas who rejoiced in their common African blood, he was honored by the kings of Sweden, Prussia and Austria. The city of Berlin conferred a decoration on him, he was elected to a variety of learned societies. When he returned to England after three years, he did not have to ask for theatres. England was waiting for him.

Certain great things had happened. Perhaps the greatest was the fact that a Negro actor had succeeded with consummate success in cutting the barriers which separated his race from any other race. His playing of King Lear, for instance, ceased to be regarded as a tour de force. His makeup and his costume prevented any sense of incongruity, and as a critic observed, Aldridge had once and for all established the fact that if a white man could play Negro parts, a Negro could, with even greater effectiveness, broaden his scope and include any part which suited his talent.

For two years he remained in England, touring the provinces, being rediscovered in London. Then he went abroad again, and this time he found all he could desire of the world's appreciation. For he went to Russia.

The French author, Gautier, travelling in Russia at the time summed up the Russia tour succintly, "Aldridge is the lion of all St. Petersburg." Students took the horses from his carriage and drew him to his hotel; theatre seats were sold out long in advance; the intelligentsia of the city struggled to "kiss his noble black hand."

The reasons for this success were not difficult to find. By the artists, the students and the intelligentsia of Russia in 1857, there was an immediate recognition not only of a great artist but of a man who, because of his Negro blood, dramatized the struggle against oppression. The serfs of Russia and the slaves of America were bound by a common hope and desperation. A Russian critic speaking through the rigid domestic censorship of the Czar attempted to make this clear. "In our contemporary history there is a movement which is creating a wholly new atmosphere in life and thought, namely the emancipation of the Negro in North America. It becomes an important event not only for the enslaved people but for all of us. That is why, in our times, the role of Othello, played by this genius has a great and universal meaning. I am quite convinced that after Aldridge it will be impossible to see any white actor as Othello, even if it were Garrick himself."

"Look at Aldridge," another cried. "General opinion puts the Negro at the lowest level among the members of the human family. He is forced to accept the mental and moral superiority of his white brothers, as if they were of nobler blood. But here is Aldridge—an African with kinky hair, dilated nostrils, gutteral speech. He does not attract us with an exquisite form; external beauty does not help him to create a favorable impression in the beginning to gain him friendship. Moreover he speaks a foreign tongue. But such is the power of his soul, such is the majesty of his art that you yield to him from the first moment, you understand everything he says, you seem to hear the beat of his heart, you experience all possible degrees of fire and reach at last the point where the very breath is caught, where mercury freezes."

In his Shylock, too, they found joy and hope. Shylock "acquired in the interpretation of Aldridge . . a peculiarly revolutionary meaning, an ardent defense of the black slave in America and the persecuted Jew in Czarist Russia."

### Won the Russians

These were all dangerous and subversive words. A Negro in the Czar's capitol acquired enemies. Every effort, short of imperial action, was made to interfere with him. His enemies succeeded in preventing his appearance as Macbeth. But he had the whole world of Russian literature, science and the theatre on his side, and his performances in other roles continued. Russian actors attended his performances as though coming to a class room.

The great Russian actor Somoiloff promptly appeared as Lear and Hamlet, but the crowds went to Aldridge's theatre. The living naturalness of Aldridge had captured the imagination of the Russians who were normally accustomed to cold declamations and stylized effect. But here, "from the first act . . . we saw in him the unusual actor who was trying to win the approval of his audience, not by shouting, not by exaggerated excitement, but by simple and sincere presentation. In Aldridge we saw a real living Othello, saw him as the poet created him. There was no artifice in his performance; it was pure nature caught in action, revealed not through art but through the spirit."

Aldridge called Russia his second home. He returned to Russia five times within the next ten years.

In 1865 the Chevalier Ira Aldridge, honored by the King of Prussia, made his last appearance in London. Mrs. Kendal, then at the beginning of her great career, played his Desdemona. London was now, apparently, willing to accept him on any or all terms. His second wife was a Swedish baroness, and they lived in a house in north London which was filled with the portraits and busts which had been executed in many of the cities of his triumphs, the medals, decorations and orders which he wore with such assurance.

Aldridge was now approaching sixty. The American Civil War had ended. Slavery had been destroyed in the United States. During the days of slavery there had been no place in America for a black man of dignity and artistic integrity. Now he talked with his friends and manager about returning to the United States. He had never forgotten that he was an American, and now he wished to return as an American.

Plans were set under way. While they were maturing, he returned to the continent for another tour. He was bound for Russia again. But he did not reach his second home. In Lodz, Poland, he was taken ill, and he died.

It cannot be said that he died in a strange city, for few cities were strange to him any longer. To the city of Lodz he was an honored citizen. A civic funeral was arranged, and many of the great men of Europe came to mourn. In the funeral procession his decorations were borne on a pillow, and his body was laid in Polish soil. As a Negro and an artist, he was a citizen of a wider world than could be encompassed by a single country.

So what is the reason for the silence which operates against a man who for forty years held a shining place on the stage? Is there a reason, bound up in both the confused and the deliberate ignorance which shackled the Negro for the second time, even though emancipation stood on the statute books? Was there the bewilderment of chauvinism which could not bring itself to believe that an artist with a black skin could be the equal of any other artist? Is silence considered less difficult to deal with than facts? Such explanations would seem logical. The Negro, Aldridge, stood in a lonely position in a century when Negro culture lived in its own terrible ghetto, when the great days of Africa glory were forgotten, and the future still unclear.

But Aldridge existed; his fame and his genius are as incontrovertible as the genius of a Robeson, an Anderson, a Maynor, a Wright, a Waller. It is up to us to make certain that no conspiracy of silence robs the modern Negro artist of his value as a citizen of mankind, a citizen in the deepest and broadest sense.

# Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

## DETROIT BRANCH OFFICERS FOR 1944

Chas. J. Dickson

*Seated, L. to R.: Mrs. Esther Lowe, asst. sec.; Atty. Robert J. Evans, sec.; Mrs. Cellilus Curry, exec. bd.; Dr. James J. McClendon, pres.; Mrs. W. A. Thompson, exec. bd.; Dr. Samuel Lieberman. Standing, L. to R.: Dr. W. A. Thompson, Wm. Kennedy, Jr., exec. comm.; L. C. Blount, exec. comm.; Mrs. Ruth Ellis; L. D. Malloy; Prince Clark; Samuel Gibbons; Gloster B. Current, exec. sec.; Mrs. W. A. Thompson, treasurer of the Detroit branch for the past six years, is retired from office. Her reports showed receipts for $33,107.84 for 1943, and disbursements of $27,411.22.*

MISSISSIPPI OKAYS SOLDIER VOTE BILL: While Representative John E. Rankin and Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi were ranting in Congress about a soldier vote bill to "maintain white supremacy," the lower house of the Mississippi State Legislature, meeting in Jackson, Miss., passed a soldier vote bill which waives the poll tax for Mississippi soldiers and permits any soldier to vote, regardless of color. The bill is expected to pass the Mississippi Senate without difficulty.

By this action not only does Mississippi run counter to Rankin and Eastland, but it "shows up" its neighboring state of Georgia where Governor Ellis Arnall has asserted that "colored people, whether soldiers or civilians, are not permitted to participate in the primary."

Perry W. Howard, Republican National Committeeman from Mississippi, was elated over the action of his state legislature and gave Governor Tom Bailey, Mississippi's new chief executive, credit for the revolutionary move.

DEWEY ON SOLDIER VOTE BILL: Negro citizens were "keenly disappointed" in his statement endorsing a "states' rights" soldier vote bill, Governor Dewey of New York was told by the NAACP, be cause it "gave enormous aid, comfort, and prestige to the persons who had unashamedly exploited violent anti-Negro sentiment in supporting their side of the argument."

After recalling the race-hating speeches of Rep. John E. Rankin and Senator James O. Eastland, both of Mississippi, declaring the states' rights vote bill was necessary to maintain white supremacy, the letter declared:

"Many opponents of a federal servicemen's ballot took no pains to conceal the low and bigoted plane upon which they were basing their opposition. It is greatly to be regreted that your statement on this legislation should have placed you in such company."

REFORM RABBIS ATTACK SEGREGATION: On the eve of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the administrative committee of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis issued a message on race relations. The message attacks segregation in schools and public conveyances, theatres and motion picture houses, and discrimination in the exercise of the ballot and the right of residence,"even in the armed forces and in religious shrines." It also attacks discrimination in employment and in professions.

The Rabbis appeal "to all Americans to remedy this grave injustice to millions of decent fellow citizens whose history is bound up with that of our country." The message ends with an appeal to all men "to purge their souls of those moral weaknesses which lead them to sanction discrimination against their fellow-men." It also commends the Negro for his "patience and restraint. He has not met hate with hate or discrimination with sullenness. He has borne his burden with inspiring dignity."

FINAL APPEAL SOLDIER RAPE CASE: Hearings in the cases of two Negro soldiers, Privates Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Lowry, now serving life sentences at McNeil Island Federal prison on conviction of rape in New Caledonia by general court martial June 15, 1943, were concluded February 3 before Colonel Philip J. McCook of the War Department. Representing the soldiers at the hearings were Congressman Vito Marcantonio, Judge William H. Hastie, and Leslie Perry.

Final military appeal in the cases having been decided at the office of the Assistant Judge Advocate General assigned to General McArthur's theatre of command in Melbourne, Australia, counsel for the boys were restricted to an appeal for clemency in the cases.

The central points brought out at the hearings by counsel were that the two boys were innocent of the charges of which they were convicted; that the woman in question was a prostitute who bargained with the boys and accepted money for coition; and that the boys were subjected to inhuman third degree methods by the American military police who forced an alleged "confession." Charges were made at the hearing that the case was "an Army Scottsboro case" where the defendants were denied adequate defense counsel, convicted 9,000 miles away from home on flimsy evidence, and given a harsh and unreasonable sentence solely because they were Negroes. Briefs supporting the arguments were presented to the Army reviewing officer in February.

RACE EQUALITY LAWS ASKED IN JERSEY: At the request of interracial groups and the New Jersey Goodwill Commission, an official body of the state of New Jersey, a program for constitutional and legislative changes prepared by the NAACP legal staff has been transmitted to Governor Edge and leaders of both parties in the state Senate and Assembly.

Among the changes requested are the following: That a special civil rights unit be set up in the Attorney General's office to be charged with the duty of

## ASST. FIELD SECRETARY

*Miss Noma Jensen, author of "The Springfield Plan" on page 79, is an assistant field secretary of the NAACP. Miss Jensen has had extensive experience with the problems of minority groups in various parts of the country.*

in two weeks in Davis' suit for equal enforcing civil rights laws; a constitutional provision that there shall be no racial or religious discrimination or segregation in public housing projects; that there shall be a constitutional provision against discrimination or distinction based on race, color or creed in private housing, including discrimination through restrictive covenant; a law prohibiting segreation in National Guard or troop units; a law prohibiting discrimination in public employment; a law to prohibit discrimination against physicinas, internes, and nurses-in-training by public or private hospitals; a law to prohibit discrimination by insurance companies in public utilities; and a law to prohibit discrimination by institutions enjoying tax exemption or public appropriations.

This program has been approved by the NAACP because of its fight against the white primary in Texas and other southern states.

MAN EXTRADITED TO MISSISSIPPI interracial, civil liberties, and labor groups in the state of New Jersey and they are sponsoring the adoption of the program by the legislative and inclusion of some of the items in the new constitution being drafted.

BRIEFS ORDERED IN ATLANTA SALARY CASE: Federal Judge E. Marvin Underwood has ordered attorneys for the Atlanta school board and Samuel L. Davis, teacher in the Booker T. Washington high school, Atlanta, to file briefs withsalary with white teachers.

Argument was held January 24 on a motion to dismiss the complaint made by Assistant City Solicitor Bond Almand and B. D. Murphy, school board attorneys. They alleged that the case was an action against the state of Georgia and could not be maintained in the federal courts for that reason. They also contended that such a case could not be filed in the state courts either because under the laws of the state of Georgia there is no redress for the deprivation of constitutional rights by state officers. After full argument by both sides, the judge ordered briefs to be filed within two weeks and his decision on the case is withheld pending consideration of the briefs.

PROBE OF WICHITA RACE TENSIONS ASKED: The Wichita branch of the NAACP has requested the FBI to investigate racial tensions in the city on the ground that they are being deliberately fomented for the purpose of delaying production in this aircraft center and are thus subversive.

A deluge of articles filled with racial hatred have recently appeared in the local press. One mediocre publication attacked Mrs. Roosevelt, Negro army officers and the Negro race in general. In keeping with this spirit the Wichita police department proceeded to arrest seventy-five Negro men in one night upon orders issued by the assistant chief of police to arrest every Negro man in Wichita "looking suspicious." This action, coupled with various stories about Negroes run repeatdly in the local press, aroused much comment from civic leaders of both races.

Recent arrest of several Wichita newspapermen for pro-Nazi activities leads many to believe that not all of the Nazi connections have been broken in the city. It is well-known that any racial outbreak in this big plane center will delay production of planes that may save thousands of American lives.

Boeing, Cessna, Beech (Beechcraft planes), and Aero Parts Corporation are located in Wichita.

CAROLINIANS CONTRIBUTE TO WHITE PRIMARY CASE: The Negro citizens of South Carolina, in a special call meeting January 20, made a contribution of $500 to the expenses of the Texas White Primary case. The check was presented by Rev. E. A. Adams of Columbia, S. C., who is president of the Negro Citizens' Committee of South Carolina, and J. M. Hinton, secretary. Funds raised by this committee are for the express purpose of securing for Negroes in South Carolina the right to vote in all elections and the contribution was made to

FREED: George Andrew Burrows who was extradited from New York to Mississippi in March, 1943, on a charge of shooting a white man, has been freed of all charges by the state of Mississippi.

Burrows was employed in a hotel in Gulfport, Miss, and was said to have wounded two white men after an altercation allegedly involving a white waitress in the hotel. Apparently the connection of a white woman with the case faded completely and the other charges were dropped by the state—no trial was had.

At the time of the extradition to Mississippi, Governor Thomas E. Dewey secured a personal pledge from the late Paul B. Johnson, then governor of Mississippi, that no personal harm would befall Burrows. NAACP attorneys were active in attempting to block the Burrows extradition and Thurgood Marshall personally appeared before Governor Dewey in Albany. After Burrows was returned to Mississippi, the NAACP engaged an attorney in Gulfport to look after his interests. Although all charges against Burrows in the Mississippi courts have been dropped, he is being held in the Alien Detention Station at Algiers, La., on a passport charge and is subject to deportation to the West Indies. Burrows' release from the state courts was ordered by the Second Circuit Court of Mississippi.

FILM ON NEGRO LIFE CALLED INSULTING: "We've Come a Long Way," the film of Negro life produced by The Negro Marches On, Inc., headed by Jack Goldberg, has been called "disgusting and insulting" by reviewers who have seen it. Since Mr. Goldberg requested the cooperation of NAACP branches throughout the country in arranging for showings of the film on a commercial basis, the National Office has written the company that in view of the nature of the picture no cooperation can be extended in its showing.

A reviewer who saw the film said it was made up of newsreel and documentary film shots put together in bad sequence; that the technical execution was faulty; and that the main message of the film seemed to be a warning to American Negroes that they are much better off now than they would be under Hitler.

NEW PROTEST ON SEABEE DISCHARGES: A new protest on the discharge of fifteen Negro Seabees last October has been made to Navy Secretary Frank Knox. The men were called in to a meeting by their immediate superior officers and told that everything they said was "off the record" and that the officers were anxious to smooth out some difficulties which had arisen The men talked freely about conditions affecting Negro enlisted men and the atmosphere was friendly and cooperative. The next day, however, the commanding officer ordered all of the men up before him, threatened them with court martial and immediately started proceedings leading up to their discharge without honor from the Navy.

"When men do not fit into military life, or adapt themselves to necessary Navy regulations," wrote Secretary Knox in a recent letter, "they are released from duty at the discretion of their commanding officers . . . such discharges are in no way affected by race or color but are based solely on efficient performance of military duties."

In the new protest, Thurgood Marshall pointed out that the ability of the men to perform their duties had never been questioned, that they were all efficient in their specialized duties, and that many of them were college graduates.

There are certain facts which should be considered, the new protest said: (1) These men did not make any complaints—they only discussed the matter when called in by their immediate superior officer for an off-the-record conference; (2) they were never given an official hearing; (3) their ability to do the work required of them has never been questioned.

At the conference with their superior officers, at his request, the men discussed such problems as the fact that Negroes were not promoted to the rank of petty officer, the existence of segreation in Navy stores and other facilities, barber shops and chow lines, and the fact that punishment for breaking regulations was uniformly more severe for Negroes than for white men.

Your letter does not touch at all upon circumstances leading to the release of these men. We therefore urge a reconsideration of the release by dishonorable discharges.

COURT ORDERS SALARY EQUALIZATION: Judge Waties Waring signed a consent decree in the federal court in Charleston, S. C., February 14 enjoining the Charleston school authorities from discriminating between white and Negro school teachers in the payment of salaries to those possessing the same qualifications and experience and performing similar duties. The decree provides that full equalization of salaries is to be achieved by September, 1946, with one-half the differential in pay granted to the Negro teachers beginning September, 1944.

It was estimated by the business manager for the school board that the amount involved in bringing the Negro salaries up to the level of the white teachers was $80,000 a year. This court action means that, based on present white and Negro teachers salary scales, a Negro teacher now making $50 a month will be making $75 a month next September and $100 a month by the 1946 school year.

## SELLS $546 SEALS

*Mrs. Ida B. Wroten, member of the Baltimore, Md., branch, was recently appointed advisor to one of the youth councils of that branch. Mrs. Wroten was chairman of the sale of NAACP Christmas seals, in 1943, netting over $546. Aside from her excellent report in the seal campaign, she also carried off honors in the last membership drive of her branch, being the first woman to report 100 members at the opening meeting.*

## Branch News

ALABAMA: The Birmingham branch installed its new officers in January. They are W. H. Hollins, president; L. H. Britt and Rev. J. W. Goodgame, vice-presidents; Emory O. Jackson, secretary; Miss Ethel Brewer, assistant secretary; S. J. Bennett, treasurer; and J. J. Green, chairman of the executive committee. "The NAACP in Action During 1944" was the theme of a third in a series of Association programs sponsored by this branch at the Metropolitan AME church.

CALIFORNIA: The Peninsula branch was one of six organizations charging discrimination against Negro tenants in the South San Francisco housing project at Lindenville.

The new officers of the Santa Clara branch were installed in January by H. J. Sheppard of the San Francisco branch at a meeting held in the AME Zion church of San Jose. Officers installed were Mrs. Amelia McBride, president; Mrs. Joaquin Hunt, vice-president; Mrs. Ida Leland, second vice-president; Mrs. Viola Carter, secretary; James Hamilton, assistant secretary; Mrs. Jennie Moore, treasurer. Two hundred and fifty members have been enrolled in this branch during the past year.

Thomas L. Griffith, president of the Los Angeles branch, has been appointed by Mayor Fletcher Bowron to the Los Angeles Committee for Home Front Unity. The purpose of the Committee is to combat enemy propaganda aimed at causing religious unrest among minority groups.

CONNECTICUT: The New Haven branch held a tea January 16 at the Dixwell Community

House with a showing of movies furnished by the OWI.

Blanchard Baker addressed the Stamford branch on juvenile delinquency at the regular monthly meeting in January.

Dr. James M. Lee, president of the Waterbury branch, addressed in January the Sunday Noon Club of the Second Congregational church. His subject was the Negro as a true American. He criticized the lack of opportunities offered Negroes to make a living as well as the discrimination against Negroes in the armed forces.

Mayor McLevy of Bridgeport was signed up as a member of the NAACP by Miss Mary H. Thornton, chairman of education for the Bridgeport-Stratford branch. Mrs. Irvena Ming, an assistant director of branches, directed the drive of this branch for 1,500 members. Miss Ella J. Baker, director of branches, spoke at a mass meeting of the branch in January.

DELAWARE: The annual drive for membership in the Wilmington branch was opened February first at a meeting in the Walnut Street Christian Association.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Eugene Davidson, chairman of the campaign committee of the Washington branch, outlined plans before a group of community leaders for the 1944 membership campaign of the D. C. branch. Davidson stated that volunteer workers were prepared to successfully inaugurate a campaign for 10,000 members in this District.

GEORGIA: The Atlanta branch has requested amendment of Georgia's service vote legislation in order to include Negro members of the armed forces, because under existing Georgia laws, "Negroes are not permitted to participate in the white primary."

IOWA: The Des Moines branch reports that the governor of Iowa is studying the possible establishment of a Negro company in the Iowa State Guard. The major difficulty is the expense. For to establish and equip a new company for Negroes would cost an estimated $18,000 and it is doubtful whether Iowa taxpayers would want to pay for this "luxury" of segregation.

MARYLAND: Under the direction of its newly appointed membership secretary, Mrs. Virginia Jackson Kiah, the Baltimore branch is continuing its membership drive. A special membership committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Miss Rosa Brown and each person on the committee is being held responsible for a house-to-house campaign in his zone. The second membership meeting was held February 27 and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune was the speaker.

At the January meeting of the Baltimore branch Ollie Stewart, *Afro* war correspondent, Alfred E. Smith, former WPA race relations advisor, and W. A. Hughes, NAACP attorney, were the principal speakers. Stewart told his audience that the boys at the front are doing an excellent job and that they are relying on their home folk to champion their cause. Smith claimed that the "Black Cabinet" had been blacked out and that future Negro gains would have to come through lobbying. Hughes led the discussion of the soldier vote bill and the poll tax.

Full use of the vote was urged upon colored citizens by the Annapolis branch in a campaign which began February 1.

MICHIGAN: William Kennedy, Jr., chairman of the labor committee of the Detroit branch, sat in on the hearings of the case of Oliver Buckles and Mike Barno. There was an altercation between Oliver Buckles, Negro worker at Murray Body Corporation, and his white foreman, Mike Barno. Mike Barno allegedly called Buckles an insulting name relative to his race, which provoked the altercation. Buckles was discharged while the white foreman was merely suspended for two weeks. The union maintained that if the worker's action warranted discharge, then similar action should have been taken against the foreman. The company maintained, however, that the foreman was essential to his department and the war effort, and therefore should not be discharged, and defended their suspension on the grounds that he was indispensable. The union refuted this claim by showing that an hourly-rated employee had succeeded Barno temporarily during the suspension and had maintained production and that a 111 percent increase had been noted.

Branding as "unsatisfactory" the answers of Sherwood Reeder, director of FPHA, and Carlton F. Sharpe, director of Region 5, FPHA, the Detroit branch in a communication sent by Gloster B. Current, executive secretary, appealed to John B. Blandford, Jr., administrator of the FPHA, to review the discriminatory policy at Willow Run which prevents Negro workers from occupying available war-housing in the area.

Greetings were extended by the Detroit branch to R. J. Thomas on the occasion of a testimonial banquet given in honor of his fifth year of leadership of the UAW-CIO.

NEW JERSEY: The Paterson branch was placed on the 1943 national honor roll and has received this distinction each year since being organized in this city in 1939. Mrs. F. H. Curtis is president and Miss Clara L. Smith, secretary.

The annual mass meeting of the Bridgeton branch was held January 20 at the Mt. Zion AME church. Principal speaker was Bishop D. H. Sims, former bishop of South Africa.

Negroes in politics was the subject of a forum discussion held at the Funeral Aid Hall under the auspices of the Long Branch NAACP in January. The forum group was composed of Stanford Welcker, Chicago; Miss Helen Harris, Cambridge, Mass.; Miss Doris Louis, McDonald, Pa.; and J. W. Grier, New York City.

## BOARD MEMBER

*Mrs. S. B. Lawson is a member of the executive board of the Richmond, Va., branch.*

Trenton, after a successful suit brought by the Trenton branch, has finally been forced to give up its 22-year-old policy of segregating Negro children in a jim-crow junior high school. The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled January 31 that "it is unlawful for Boards of Education to exclude children from any public school on the grounds that they are of the Negro race." Writs of mandamus were granted Mrs. Gladys Hedgepath and Mrs. Berline Williams compelling the Trenton board of education to transfer their children, Janet Hedgepath and Leon Williams, from the New Lincoln school for Negro pupils to Junior High school No. 2.

During the mandamus hearings it was found that no Negro child had ever been admitted to Junior 2, that only one or two were in Junior 4, that Junior 1 had nearly 15 Negro pupils, but Junior 3 had none. Even though a Negro pupil might live in the district of Junior 2 he would be assigned, "pursuant to the custom which had been in force over a period of years," to New Lincoln.

Among the groups honoring Juan D. Sanchez of New Brunswick as "Young Man of the Year" was the New Brunswick branch. Rev. H. Solomon Hill presented Sanchez with a pen set from members of his branch as a token of appreciation for the work Sanchez has done for Negroes of the city.

NEW MEXICO: At its first meeting in 1944 the Albuquerque branch observed George Washington Carver week. Outstanding feature of the program was a review of Carey McWilliam's *Brothers Under the Skin.*

NEW YORK: Fred H. M. Turner, president of the Brooklyn branch, has been appointed a member of Borough President John Cashmore's committee to establish "a permanent educational program of good will and to promote mutual respect, understanding and tolerance."

The following are the newly elected members of the executive board of the Brooklyn branch: Neville Mowatt, chairman; Rev. James B. Adams, E. Alexander, Mrs. Laura Alston, Oliver Arrington, Mrs. Maggie Clark, Robert Corley, Miss Vivian Edwards, Thomas Fox, Jesse Griggs, Mrs. Ada Jackson, Philip Jones, William Jones, Wilfred Kerr, Mrs. Janie Mapp, Herbert Miller, Mrs. Lulu Mitchell, Alfred Rawlins, George Rose, Rev. W. M. B. Scott, Miss Alice Thompson, Irving Winters, Thomas Wood, and John T. Yancey.

Charles Kellar, member of the speakers bureau of the Brooklyn branch, addressed a forum January 23 at the Flatbush Jewish Center. He urged members of the American Jewish Congress to create a "public relations committee" for the purpose of bringing about closer cooperation between themselves and other groups.

The Quarterly Conference of the New York State Conference was held January 29-30 with the Jamaica, L. I., branch as hosts.

OHIO: Officers and executive committee members of the Cincinnati branch were installed at the Carmel Presbyterian church January 16. Charles N. King, editor of the Cincinnati *Call-Post* delivered the installation address.

Dr. Nathan K. Christopher is the newly elected president of the Cleveland branch.

Edwin J. Cox of the Columbus branch has been appointed to the advisory council of the Columbus Council for Democracy.

PENNSYLVANIA: Homer S. Brown, president of the Pittsburgh branch and state legislator, addressed the Allied Boards of Trade in January on "Facts upon Negro Life in Pittsburgh."

RHODE ISLAND: State director of labor William Connolly spoke in January at a mass meeting of citizens conducted under the auspices of the Newport branch and the Newport Central Labor Union. He urged support of anti-poll tax legislation that would give poor

whites and Negroes in the south the right to vote.

In Providence the branch called a mass meeting for the discussion of the Boilermakers case. The meeting was held at the Bethel AME church and the principal speaker was Edward R. Dudley, assistant special council of the NAACP.

SOUTH CAROLINA: O. E. McKaine, executive secretary of the Sumter branch, called upon the South Carolina legislature to refrain from "political speeches" which tend to break down racial harmony in his state. In a letter to the Columbia *Record*, among other things, he wrote: "It would be a fine contribution to better racial relations if some eminent white citizens could persuade the members of the General Assembly and other state officials to abstain from individious remarks about Negro citizens during this period of increasing racial tensions."

VIRGINIA: The annual report of the Roanoke branch shows 680 members, 612 of whom were taken in during the regular membership drive held in 1943 under the direction of Miss J. K. Spencer. Among the achievements of the branch for the year were the selling of more than 4,000 Christmas seals during the holidays, the organization of a branch in Salem and Christianburg, Va., and a campaign to pay the poll tax.

## Youth Council News

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.: A Youth council has been organized by the Atlantic City branch. Officers of the council are Miss Doris Darkes, president; Elwood Davis, vice-president; Miss Jeanne Nelson, secretary; Miss Yvonne Boyd, treasurer; and Louis Henry, sergeant-at-arms.

DAYTON, OHIO: Though the junior council is not yet three months old, it has already organized a boys' basketball team, which will be outfitted in NAACP jerseys. The girls are now planning a team in competition.

HILLBURN, N. Y.: Five members of the council are entering the essay contest "What Youth Seeks in the Post-War World," sponsored by the youth division of the American Jewish Congress. They are Misses Loretta Wade, Lorraine Van Dunk, Joyce Van Dunk, Mildred Alexander, and Justine Van Dunk. Miss Noma De Freese, president of the group, has been inducted into the WAC's; Mildred Alexander, vice-president, is now acting president.

DETROIT, MICH.: The Detroit council has set a goal of a 1,000 youth members beginning with its March drive. James Felder, acting president, urged the youth council to "make increased effort to reach our quota of youth memberships" and invited all youth to attend future meetings held in the St. Antoine branch YMCA each Friday evening. Gwendolyn Broyles and Wesley King, division leaders in the drive, announced the names of captains of their divisions. The losing division will have to fete the winning division at the close of the drive, and a $25.00 war bond will go to the individual who brings in the largest number of members.

CHICAGO, ILL.: Robert Burns was elected president of the Chicago council in January. Other officers are Rosine Taylor, vice-president; Helen Thompson, secretary; Lillian Jones, treasurer; Frances Gober, reporter; and Hubert White, publicity chairman.

JOHNSON C. SMITH: An NAACP canteen has been established on the campus and the profits are to be used to further the work of the chapter. Joe Maxwell, chapter president, has given lectures on youth and the NAACP at several churches and schools in the community.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE: The person submitting to the college chapter the best essay on "What Youth Seeks in the Post-War World" will receive prizes and his manuscript will be entered in the contest sponsored by the American Jewish Congress.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY: Dr. Leon A. Ransome of the University Law School has been designated faculty advisor to the group. Officers are Ruth Harvey, president; Augusta Bolden, vice-president; Carrie Brady, secretary; Gloria Foster, assistant secretary; and Blanche Wills, treasurer.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY: Southern University has sent in its application to be chartered with 143 members. This is the largest college chapter to date and promises to run a close race with other chapters in activity. Dr. Reid S. Jackson was the guiding spirit in organization and he is also the faculty advisor.

To the Editor of The Crisis:

In a letter which I received recently from a white friend were some comments which struck me very forcibly, and which I thought would be of interest to your readers.

This young lady, working in a large Eastern city, wrote in the middle of her letter:

> "I will say though that the negroes are muffing their opportunities during this war, as they are working so many places formerly employing only white people, and they are so utterly disagreeable that even I, who always upheld the negro, am thinking may be the others are right. However, the white people employed in similar work are the same way, so that I shouldn't hold it against the negro. Nevertheless, they are missing their chance to show what they can do. They might be wasting their efforts at that as there will always be racial prejudice. It surely would be a treat to get a little courteous service some time though."

At the end of the letter she says:

> "Reading back on the next to the last paragraph on the first page, I know it sounds very intolerant on my part. Here I know personally so many nice negroes. So I realize there are nice ones and disagreeable ones, just as there are among the whites. It just goes to show how we forget the nice things and remember the bad things."

It seems to me that this young lady's frank statement emphasizes one important way in which Negroes can build up the respect and good-will which is essential for cooperation between the races. I send these remarks, not as any defense of the white people, but because of my great desire to see your race attain the rights and privileges due you. By giving your readers this opportunity to look at themselves through this white friend's eyes they may realize even more how important this matter is.

A WHITE FRIEND

## Madame Evanti To Appear in "La Traviata"

On March 29 at Madison Square Garden the National Negro Opera Company will present Madame Lillian Evanti, internationally famous opera star, as "Violetta" in Verdi's "La Traviata." The cast of 100 assembled for the work is an all Negro one and contains a galaxy of opera stars.

Madame Evanti is the first of her race to be acclaimed in grand opera in the leading capitals of Europe and South America. And America is now appraising her operatic values.

She is one of the most versatile artists of her race and chalks up a new high in the opera "La Traviata" with the National Negro Opera Company. The press and public have given her an ovation in her appearances at the Water Gate in Washington, at the Civic opera in Chicago, and at Syria Mosque in Pittsburgh. Madame Evanti in her portrayal of the tragic heroine in "La Traviata" has proved to the world that the Negro, given the opportunity to study and perform, is capable of giving to the world a classical, traditional, orthodox histronic and vocal recreation of the highest form of vocal art—grand opera.

## Justice Delany in Fourth Year USO Committee

Entering his fourth year as a member of the Negro Service Committee of the USO, Justice Hubert T. Delany of the New York Domestic Relations Court believes the greatest value the USO can have for the Negro serviceman is to give him a stronger feeling of being "wanted."

"One of the things of which I am constantly aware in my legal work," he continued, "is the deep need of people to feel wanted. So much maladjustment, be it in relation to husband and wife or parent and child, results from this lack of security. Negroes as a whole suffer from this lack—the serviceman in particular, isolated as he is from home and family. A good number of the USO clubs have helped overcome this and it is indicated that in the coming year more will do so."

## Springfield Plan

(Continued from page 79)

"There is no Hebrew Race"
"There is no 'Pure' Race"
"There is no Superior Race"

"Race: when you employ this term you are referring not to nationality, or culture or religion, but only to biological heredity and physical type." The teacher of this class was approaching her subject in a positive rather than a negative manner.

Students also exchange knowledge about their different national backgrounds. During the Christmas season in one of the elementary schools where there is a large Jewish enrollment the students celebrated both the Jewish Hanuka and the birth of Christ. Some Christian boys and girls took part in the pageant depicting the Hanuka, and some Jewish children participated in the traditional nativity pageant. The reaction of parents and the community was most favorable. For the first time Jewish parents were not only glad to have their children take part in the Christmas festivities, but also offered their services in the making of costumes. With the result that Jewish and gentile worked together in preparation for the pageants.

### Unity in Atmosphere

As you walk along the corridors and visit the classrooms you become highly conscious of a feeling of "the world" and the "unity of all peoples" everywhere. One of the most impressive murals done by children in the elementary grades depicts the world as a parachute, and the paratrooper, so one of the children told me, as a Chinese soldier. Beneath the parachute are two children standing with outstretched hands ready to receive the "world," the parachute. One is a Negro and the other is white, and on either side of the "world" are pictures of servicemen and men and women factory workers working and fighting together. This mural becomes doubly significant when you realize that it was planned and done by the children themselves.

In one classroom a boy proudly exhibited a poster which his classmates had made. At the top were these words, "Talent knows no race, color or creed." He then pointed out pictures of Marian Anderson, Paul Robeson and others, which the children had brought, while telling me of their achievements.

### Appreciation of Minority Groups

Not only were there many illustrations of the appreciation of minority


## Will You Just Stand By—*OR* Do YOU Want to Get into the Fight to End

# JIM CROW IN UNIFORM?

**WHEN WINFRED LYNN began his long legal fight two years ago against the Army's racial policy, he was simply one man standing up for his rights . . . one man who couldn't understand how you could fight Nazi racialism with a Jim Crow American army.**

**Today the Lynn Case is much more than one man's fight. It is a national issue, hailed by many as the most important case, involving segregation, yet to be brought before the Supreme Court.**

**Two weeks ago the last hurdle was cleared in the march to the Supreme Court. The Federal Court of Appeals split two to one on the case. The dissenting opinion was an historic one, completely upholding Lynn's contention that *the present racial policy of the military authorities is in flagrant violation of the 1940 Draft Act.***

**Now the way is clear for a showdown decision by the Supreme Court, not on legal technicalities, but on broad historical and constitutional grounds.**

**Thus the Lynn Case—the 20th century Dred Scott Case—will be fought in the highest court in the land . . . but only if YOU help make it possible.**

• Funds are needed for legal expenses and to arouse public opinion. But the money must be raised soon —it must be subscribed now. We appeal to you: send YOUR contribution today — right now!

**DON'T JUST STAND BY — GET INTO THE FIGHT!**

# JIM CROW IN UNIFORM MUST GO!

***Send your contributions NOW to***

**NATIONAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR WINFRED LYNN**

**1 W. 125th St., New York 27, N. Y.**

NANCY MACDONALD, *Treasurer*
NATIONAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR WINFRED LYNN
1 West 125th Street, New York 27, N.Y.

Enclosed please find $..... as my contribution to the Lynn Committee.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....CR


## CIO To Distribute Pamphlet Banned By USO

The National CIO War Relief Committee has announced that it will mail copies of the pamphlet RACES OF MANKIND to all servicemen on its mailing lists who are stationed in this country, and that it will request permission from the War and Navy departments to send copies of the pamphlet to men and women in the armed forces serving overseas. The announcement was made jointly by chairman Irving Abramson and national director Leo Perlis (of the National CIO War Relief Committee) in reply to the recent action by the USO Board upholding its president's decision in banning the distribution of this publication in USO centers.

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## ALP Held Negro Forum

An interracial symposium on "The Negro's Place in the New World A-Coming" was held January 27 at the Turn Verein, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., under the sponsorship of the International American Labor Party club of Mt. Vernon.

groups, but there was also an appreciation of labor. In one school the youngsters watched the workmen take up the streetcar tracks near their school. Each day upon their return to school they would discuss what they had seen and its significance, and they made a series of pictures of the laborers' activities.

One of the smaller elementary schools is carrying on a unique experiment. The entire school is divided into seven committees and every child is a member of a committee. These committees, safety, property, Red Cross, music, etc., literally control the school. The children plan and conduct their own meetings, and the teacher is simply a guide. That this procedure was producing many capable leaders, developing iniative, a sense of responsibility, and respect for one another was quite evident.

To those who object that the Springfield plan is not applicable to our large cosmopolitan cities with their varied racial and nationality groups my answer would be: Look over the enrollment sheets in the Springfield schools. They represent a veritable family of nations.

Not only can Springfield be proud of its elementary and high schools, but also of its adult education program which is an integral part of the Springfield plan. This program enables a large number of first generation Americans to learn our language, our customs, and to prepare themselves for full citizenship in a democracy.

Allison Davis, a professor in the University of Chicago, in commenting on education, has said: "The evidence is that all cultural behavior is learned behavior. None of it is inherited."

Dr. Granrud, and some of the other far-seeing educators in Springfield, has proved to me that "these truths" (of Allison Davis) are self-evident. Dr. Granrud has apparently learned the lesson taught by Nazi Germany: That just as German youth had to be educated to make good Nazis, so must we educate our children to become good democrats.


*About Exceptional Negroes*

**RISING ABOVE COLOR**

**Edited by Philip Henry Lotz**

You will want to own and read this unusual study of thirteen outstanding Negroes who have made notable contributions to American civilization.

The biography of *Walter White*, executive secretary of the NAACP, is especially timely because of his current tour of the battlefronts surveying the Negro's part in the struggle for world freedom. Along with the study of Mr. White by Roy Wilkins, editor of *The Crisis*, are lengthy portraits of Roland Hayes, Richard Allen, W. E. B. DuBois, Marian Anderson, Frederick Douglass, Daniel H. Williams, Booker T. Washington, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James W. Johnson, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and George Washington Carver.

**Price $1.50**

**THE CRISIS BOOK SHOP**

**69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.**


## Sues For Refusal To Cut Hair

What is believed to be the first case of its kind in New Jersey was brought before Second District Court Judge Lewis G. Hansen in January by Randolph Wilhelmsen of Newark, N. J., charging Samuel Messina, employed in the barber shop operated by Matthew Traiglio in the Harrison plant of the Otis Elevator Co., with refusal to cut his hair because Wilhelmsen was Negro. Wilhelmsen is suing for $500 damages and counsel fees.


**WANTED**

**COLLEGE MAN**

***Draft exempted***

Major Physical Education. Salary $1800. Must be capable of taking complete charge of swimming pool.

**Wissahickon Boys' Club**
**Coulter Street and Pulaski Ave.**
**Germantown, Pa.**


# LEGAL DIRECTORY

**The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorneys outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights.**

**CALIFORNIA**

**Clarence A. Jones**
129 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles 13
Telephone: VAndyne 1764

**H. L. Richardson**
1557 7th Street, Oakland
Telephone: 5998

**DELAWARE**

**Louis L. Redding**
1002 French St., Wilmington
Telephone: 3-1924

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Isaiah Lisemby**
1609 First St. N. W., Washington D. C.
Telephone: North 7343

**ILLINOIS**

**Ellis & Westbrooks**
3000 S. State St., Chicago, Ill.
Telephone Cal-4968-9

**INDIANA**

**William Henry Huff**
East Chicago (Direct mail to
533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill.
Telephone: OAKland 2848)

**KANSAS**

**R. W. Johnson**
436 Minn. Avenue, Kansas City, Kan.
Telephone: Fairfax 3867

**John Q. Sayers**
P. O. Box 186, Hill City
Telephone: 1

**MICHIGAN**

**Floyd H. Skinner**
Michigan at Monroe Avenue, Grand Rapids
Telephone: 8-9042

**MISSOURI**

**John A. Davis**
2103A Market St., St. Louis

**NEW JERSEY**

**J. Mercer Burrell**
23 Howard Street, Newark
Telephone: Ma 3-4708

**Robert Burk Johnson**
300 Broadway, Room 603, Camden
Telephone: Camden 0110

**NEW YORK**

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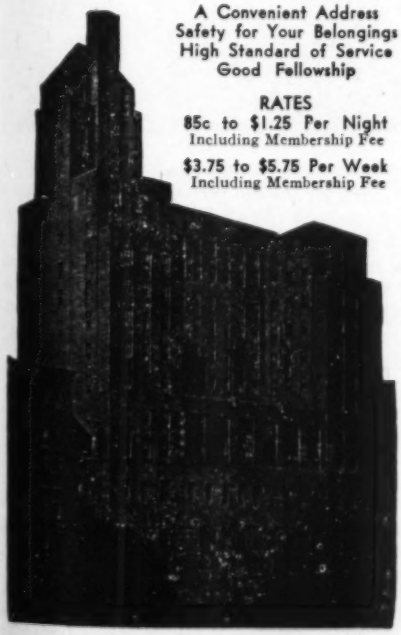

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Jes' dreamin' all the long day
Of things I'd like to do.
Jes' dreamin' dreams of glory
That never will come true,
Jes' dreamin' all the mornin',
And noon and evenin' too,
The world goes sailin' by me
And I dream I'm sailin' too.

Jes' weavin' webs of fancy
Into visions bright and new,
Jes' dreamin' all the world is mine
When things I have are few.
Jes' buildin' dreams among the clouds
That fade too soon from view.—
But someday I'll do something
To make my dreams come true.

THELMA E. JOHNSON

### THE ARGOSY

I dreamt of a sail on a silvery sea,
Mirrored beneath the sky;
Away we sailed to an isle o' dreams—
No one but you and I.
The watchers waited along the shore,
Beneath the stars above,
To check the precious freight she bore—
'Twas an argosy of love.

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## War for Common Humanity

*(Continued from page 75)*

which all minorities stand or fall: opportunity for every man irrespective of color or creed. We can act in behalf of that principle through personal contacts, through group planning. As representatives of minorities, we shall best do our job if we understand our relation to other minorities the world over. We can enlist those men of good will and generous courage who are to be found among mankind everywhere. Often it will be hard to see in its perspective a situation which harshly and cruelly penalizes us as individuals. But in many vocations quiet progress can be and is being made. Health, housing, education, labor, recreation, as well as the broader issues of civil rights, offer a multitude of handholds at which almost everyone can take his part in bettering group relations. If a Supreme Court case goes against a minority, it should always be remembered that on more than one issue that Court has reversed an earlier decision. If the Navy at one moment declines to accept Negro enlistment except as mess attendants, it may suddenly later change its policy. The status quo need never be accepted as final. That is the best ground for hope in America. Partly at least, America will be what we make it. Here we have an opportunity to help resolve the worlds moral crisis, in terms of our fellow-man. We have the right to hope, the right to speak and opportunity to act in the cause of common humanity.

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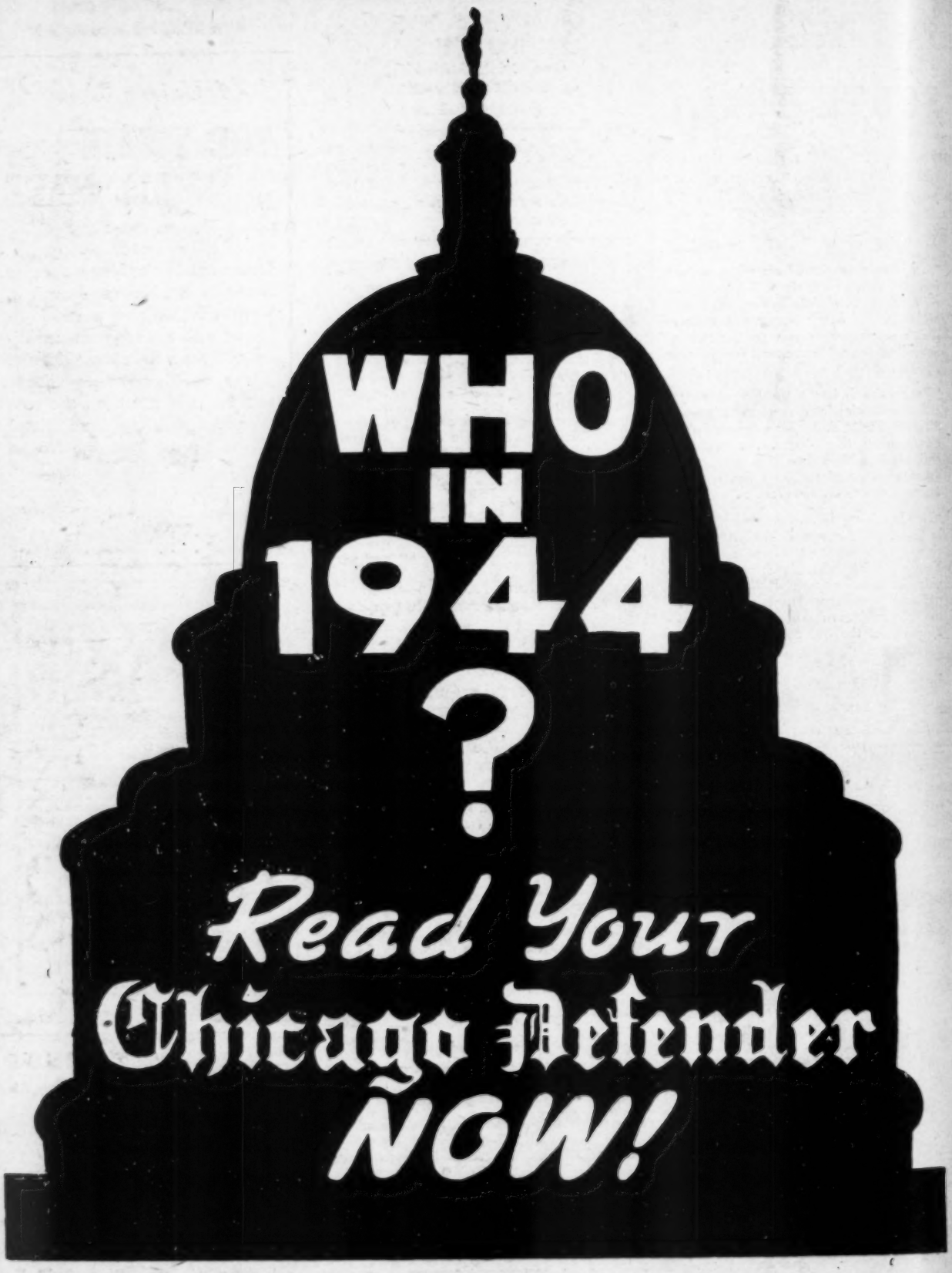
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